



Mahua and Kirti Azad Join the 'Cockroach Janata Party'

Nation Pg 5



State Govt Adopts Nep, Announces Major Edu Reforms and Scholarships

City Pg 3

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KOLKATA

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Morning India

TMC MLA's son arrested with firearms

MI News Service, Kolkata: The son of "absconding" TMC MLA Dilip Mondal and five of his associates, have been arrested by the West Bengal police from Bakkhali-Fraserganj area in south 24 Parganas district, on charge of allegedly possessing firearms, a senior officer said on Monday.

A joint team of the West Bengal Police and Diamond Harbour district police apprehended them late on Sunday night, he said.

"Arghya Mondal and his associates were found to be in possession of firearms. Two pistols and six mobile phones were seized from them during the operation," the officer said.

According to the police, acting on a tip off a joint operation was carried out by the police. After their arrest all six accused were taken to the Diamond Harbour police station for further interrogation.

Police also alleged that like his father, Arghya Mondal had also been threatening workers and supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the area.

Meanwhile, Dilip Mondal, who represents the Bishnupur constituency in south 24 parganas district as a legislator of the All India Trinamool Congress, remains untraceable, with search operations still continuing to trace him .

The MLA had earlier faced allegations of intimidating political rivals, following which an FIR was filed against him .. Investigators had conducted raids on May 14 at two properties linked to him in the Pallan area as part of the ongoing probe, from where he fled.

Bengal govt ends religion-based aid, sets up panels to probe corruption

MI News Service, Kolkata: Signalling a sharp policy shift, the West Bengal cabinet on Monday decided to discontinue religion-based assistance to imams and others, roll out the 'Annapurna' financial support scheme for women and set up two panels to look into cases of corruption and crimes against women during the TMC rule.

The cabinet at its second meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, also approved free travel for women on government-run buses, the scrapping of the existing state OBC list and the constitution of the Seventh State Pay Commission to revise state employees' salaries upward.

Announcing the state government's decisions, Women, Child, and Social Welfare Minister Agnimitra Paul said all decisions will take effect starting June 1.

The meeting also decided to set up two Commissions, led by retired High Court judges, to probe into allegations of "institutional corruption" and crimes against women in the state during the previous TMC regime under Mamata Banerjee.

Speaking to mediapersons at the state secretariat Nabanna, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari also said, "The Cabinet today gave its approval to form two Commissions, which we had promised to set up during our poll campaign. These two Commissions will commence work from June 1."

The Commission to investigate institutional corruption will be led by retired Calcutta High Court Judge Justice Biswajit Basu, with ADG-rank IPS officer Jayraman as its member secretary.

"This Commission will investigate all cases of corruption – cut money, extortion in all projects like (Cyclone) Amphan rehabilitation, PMAY, 100 days work, Mid-Day Meal, etc. All

Continued to Pg 3

Suwendu Adhikari holds first 'Janatar darbar' as promised



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari holds Janatar Darbar with former BJP MP Locket Chatterjee and others at Saltlake Party Office in Kolkata on Monday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: In order to listen to public demands and their grievances and solve them accordingly, West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday held his first 'Janatar darbar' at the state party headquarters here for the first time after assuming office.

Suwendu Adhikari, who took oath as the state's first BJP chief minister on May 9, has decided to hold regular 'Janatar darbar' (public hearing) sessions, like several other BJP Chief ministers do in some other states, the party sources said.

A large number of common people, including students and senior citizens participated in the interactions with the new Chief minister and put forward their grievances for early redressal.

Among others, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath holds regular 'janata darbars' in the state, while former Bihar Chief minister Nitish Kumar, too, organised such people's hearings during his tenure.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal BJP, in a post on X, said several major decisions and actions were taken by the "double engine" government in the state in

its first week of assuming office - from May 9 to May 16.

"What West Bengal under TMC couldn't deliver in 15 years, the Double Engine Government has started showing in its very first week. 'This is the new West Bengal and the speed of real governance,'" it said.

However, earlier last week Suwendu Adhikari had announced that he would hold the 'Janata Darbar' from June 1, to directly interact with citizens and hear public grievances through regular public hearing sessions.

According to sources in the state administration, the programme is being designed as a direct communication platform between the government and the public, allowing citizens to raise complaints related to civic issues, administration, public services, and government departments before the Chief Minister and senior officials.

Officials said from now on the 'Janata Darbar' sessions are likely to be organised once or twice every week, with the Chief Minister spending nearly two hours interacting with people during each session. Senior bureaucrats from key departments are also expected to remain present

to ensure quicker response and follow-up action on complaints received during the hearings.

Preparations for the initiative are currently underway at the administrative level. Departments are reportedly working on grievance registration systems, crowd management, venue arrangements, and coordination mechanisms to ensure smooth functioning once the programme regularly begins next month.

The initiative is being seen as part of the BJP government's broader attempt to project a more accessible and citizen-focused style of governance in West Bengal after coming to power in the state.

Political observers note that similar grievance redressal platforms already operate in several BJP-ruled states. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath regularly conducts 'Janata Darbar' sessions where citizens directly place complaints before the administration. Similar public outreach programmes are also active in Madhya Pradesh, while Odisha runs a citizen hearing mechanism called 'Jana Sunani'.

After the rather unexpected meeting many citizens expressed

a sense of relief and optimism, noting that it was a significant shift to have their daily civic and administrative complaints—such as demands for jobs—heard directly by top leadership.

Senior BJP leaders like former MP Locket Chatterjee, praised the initiative, expressing that the Chief minister's first 'Janata Darbar' made an immediate impact. The Chief Minister's direct communication with the public and address them shows a commitment to making leaders accessible and resolving issues.

During the interactions, Suwendu Adhikari emphasized that the new government aims to restore Bengali culture to the forefront. This resonated strongly with the attendees, who felt their state and traditions were previously suppressed.

Some of the young unemployed also expressed their plight to the Chief minister and sought an immediate redressal. "The Chief minister gave us a patient hearing and promised us to look into and solve our problems. This was absolutely unexpected. We never thought that we shall ever be able to describe our plight personally to the CM", one of the unemployed youth said.

Absconding Sona Pappu appears before ED

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a surprised move, notorious gangster Biswajit Poddar, alias Sona Pappu, allegedly involved in a number of land grabbing and extortion cases for the past several years, suddenly appeared before the Enforcement Directorate here on Monday in connection with its probe into a money laundering case, an ED official said.

Sona Pappu, who had been absconding since the central agency started an investigation into land grabbing, extortion and several financial fraud charges a couple of months ago, surprised everybody on being appeared before the ED sleuths this morning after the agency arrested Kolkata Police Deputy Commissioner Santanu Sinha Biswas for his alleged involvement in "offences linked to Sona Pappu last week," the ED official said.

Denying any link to alleged land grabbing, Sona Pappu, however, claimed that there is no complaint against him at any police station.

"I have come here as the ED issued a summons against me. I do not know Santanu Sinha Biswas," he said as he entered the central agency's Kolkata office.

Earlier Sona Pappu had repeatedly been called by the Enforcement Directorate office in Salt Lake for questioning in connection with an alleged



Sona Pappu

land-grabbing case. A couple of weeks ago, businessman Jay S Kamdar and Kolkata Police DC Santanu Sinha Biswas were arrested in relation to the same investigation.

Kolkata Police Deputy Commissioner Santanu Sinha Biswas was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday in a money laundering case linked to an alleged extortion and land-grabbing racket.

The ED claims the racket was run by wanted criminal "Sona Pappu", along with businessman Jay Kamdar. Investigators suspect Sona Pappu helped the group operate the network.

Biswas appeared before the ED in Kolkata on Thursday after skipping several summons issued by the agency. According to ED sources, he was arrested after investigators found him allegedly withholding information and not cooperating during questioning.

Suwendu discusses Park Circus violence with senior police officers



Chief minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday inspects the injury of a CRPF jawan,sustained during the violence at Park Circus on Sunday

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday met senior officers of Kolkata Police's South East Division to review the law and order situation, a day after violence broke out at Park Circus seven-point crossing here, officials said.

Several police personnel were injured after protesters allegedly hurled stones and bricks at security forces at the minority-dominated area on Sunday.

Trouble erupted during a protest over an alleged anti-encroachment drive in Tiljala area, police said, adding that several persons were detained in connection with the incident.

A large police contingent remained deployed in and around Park Circus on Monday to prevent any further flare-up, officials added.

West Bengal's political landscape teetered on the brink of unrest as Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari took charge by meeting senior officers of Kolkata Police's South East Division. The meeting, held this afternoon was aimed to evaluate the turbulent law and order situation, especially after violent incidents erupted at Park Circus, characterized by stone pelting and barricades.

The commotion began on Sunday, reportedly during a protest against an alleged anti-

ti-encroachment drive in the Tiljala area. The agitation led to injuries among police personnel as demonstrators resourced stones and bricks, targeting the deployed security forces. This incident was particularly marked in the minority-dominated region, escalating tension in the vicinity.

In response, on Monday, a significant police contingent was deployed to Park Circus with a mission to quell any potential disturbances and maintain peace. Several protesters were detained following the clashes, with law enforcement keen on avoiding further flare-ups in this vulnerable and volatile area.

Rupee falls to record low of 96.25 against US dollar

MI News Service, Mumbai: As elevated crude oil prices, coupled with global uncertainty and a stronger dollar continue to remain key risks for the domestic unit, the rupee opened on a weak note and slumped to an all-time low of 96.25 in early trade on Monday,causing concern in the financial markets .

Forex traders said higher crude oil prices, a stronger US dollar, and ongoing geopolitical tensions have together created a difficult environment for emerging market currencies, and the rupee is now clearly reflecting that stress.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 96.19, then fell further to 96.25 against the US dollar, registering a fall of 44 paise from its previous close.

On Saturday, the rupee had crossed the 96-pen-dollar mark during trading .for the first time, before ending the session at a record closing low of 95.81 against the American currency.

Currency market experts said the rupee is facing pressure due to multiple global factors. Rising oil prices, tensions in the Middle East and the strength-



ening of the US dollar have created challenges for emerging market currencies, including the Indian rupee.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the strength of the US dollar against six major currencies, was trading slightly higher at 99.32 amid ongoing tensions linked to Iran.83 per cent to USD 111.26 per barrel in futures trade.

In another development, the Centre recently tightened import rules for silver. Days after increasing customs duty on precious metals, Continued to Pg 3

PM Modi to hold talks on trade and technology in Norway

MI News Service, New Delhi / Oslo: On the final leg of his four nation tour of West Asia and Europe, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Norwegian capital Oslo on Monday, to hold talks with his counterpart Jonas Gahr Store on trade, technology and other key sectors.

On his arrival from Sweden, PM Modi was received at the airport by PM Store and other top leaders of the Scandinavian country.

This is not only the first visit of PM Modi to Norway, but is also the first visit by an Indian Prime minister in this country in 43 years.

During his two-day visit, PM Modi is scheduled to call on King Harald V and Queen Sonja and hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Store.

He will also review the progress made in India-Norway relations and explore av-

enues to further strengthen them, with a focus on trade and investment, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

Earlier, during his visit to Sweden on Sunday, PM Modi had agreed to elevate the diplomatic ties between India and Sweden to a Strategic Partnership , focusing on trade, technology, defence, and other key sectors during his talks with the Swedish Prime minister.

PM Modi two day stay was awarded the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross' in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the India-Sweden relationship and his visionary leadership.

During the delegation-level talks, the two leaders reviewed the full spectrum of India-Sweden relations and agreed to elevate the bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership, marking a major milestone in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, right, receives Norway's top honour, the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, during a ceremony in Oslo, Norway.

the relationship, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

The leaders discussed ways to deepen cooperation in trade and investment, technology and innovation, green transition, space, emerging technologies,

defence & security, SMEs, research and people-to-people ties. The bilateral trade reached USD 7.75 billion in 2025.

They agreed to identify new opportunities in the spirit of the India-EU Strategic Partnership and recently concluded the India-EU FTA for the benefit of their peoples.

PM Kristersson appreciated the strides being made by India in the field of digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence.

He also noted the positive contribution of the Indian community in Sweden. Prime Minister Modi invited further Swedish participation in India's growth story.

The leaders also exchanged perspectives on regional and global issues. They emphasised the urgency to reform the UN and multilateral organisations, and agreed to advance cooperation in multilateral fora.

Crown Princess Victoria also participated in the meeting Continued to Pg 3

Trinamool Congress Fact-Finding Team Visits Kharagpur, Narayangarh and Keshiary Assembly Areas Under Leadership of Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen

Assesses ground situation and interacts with affected families

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A fact-finding team of the Trinamool Congress visited various areas under the Kharagpur, Narayangarh and Keshiary Assembly constituencies in West Midnapore district on Monday to investigate allegations of post-election violence. The delegation was led by Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen. According to party sources, several other Trinamool Congress leaders were also part of the delegation. The team visited different localities, assessed the situation on the ground and spoke with affected families. The visit was organised following allegations of violence, vandalism and attacks on



party workers and supporters in several areas after the elections. The delegation first visited a party office at Mandirtala in the Kharagpur Sadar Assembly constituency, where they held discus-

sions with local Trinamool workers and supporters to gather detailed information about the incidents. The team also met affected families and listened to their grievances. The Trinamool

leadership alleged that an atmosphere of unrest was created in several areas after the elections with support from opposition parties, and that party workers were specifically targeted. The party stated that the fact-finding team was sent to ascertain the truth behind the allegations and assess the actual situation. It is learnt that the report prepared by the delegation will be submitted to the party's top leadership. During the visit, Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen also went to the residence of deceased Trinamool worker Biren Patra in the 66 No. Booth area of Pakurseni in Narayangarh. She met the family mem-

bers and expressed her condolences. It may be recalled that on May 10, Biren Patra was found hanging inside his house. He was the brother of local Trinamool booth president Badal Kumar Patra. The family alleged that prolonged mental pressure and harassment from the BJP had driven Biren Patra to take the extreme step. The family also claimed that a suicide note was recovered from the deceased. Dola Sen assured the family of all possible support and demanded a fair and complete investigation into the incident. Political tension and exchanges of allegations over the matter continue in the area.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari held an important review meeting with officials from the Irrigation Department and the DVC regarding pre-monsoon preparations at Nabanna on Monday.

Employees' Union submits deputation at KU demanding cancellation of re-employment of retired staff

MI News Service, Nadia : The demand for cancellation of the re-employment and service extension of retired employees above the age of 60 in government departments and universities across West Bengal is gaining momentum. On Wednesday, the Kalyani unit of the West Bengal University Employees' Association (PBKS) submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor of University of Kalyani, Professor (Dr.) Kallol Pal, seeking implementation of the state government's recent directive. The information was confirmed by the organisation's state secretary, Sushanta Majumdar.



based on a directive from the Special Secretary of the Finance Department of the Government of West Bengal, bearing Memo No. 1631-F(H), dated May 11, 2026.

The notification clearly states that employees working in various government departments and educational institutions through re-employment, extension, or nomination after attaining the age of superannuation, i.e., 60 years, must be relieved from their posts immediately or their tenure should be terminated without delay.

The directive has already been circulated across different administrative levels.

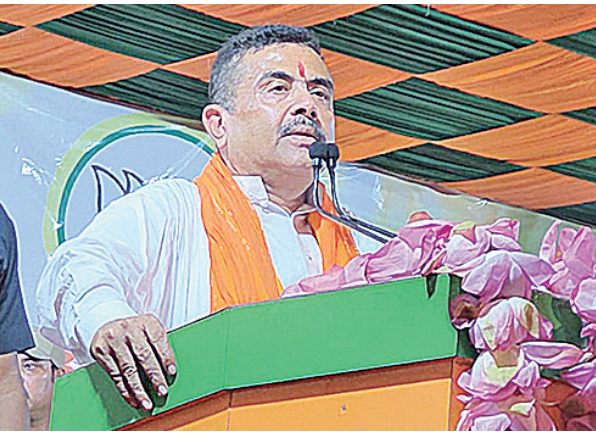
Using this state directive as the basis of their demand, the West Bengal

University Employees' Association intensified pressure on university administrations across the state on May 14. The organisation's state general secretary has reportedly written to the Vice-Chancellors and Registrars of all state universities, urging them to take immediate steps in compliance with the government order.

Sanjib Roy, secretary of the Kalyani University unit of the organisation, stated that in order to maintain administrative transparency within the university and to uphold the state government's directive, the process of cancelling such re-employments should begin immediately.

In the memorandum submitted to the Vice-Chancellor, the organisation demanded that the university authorities take prompt and time-appropriate action without any delay.

Attention is now focused on what steps the university administration will take regarding the matter.



Following his historic victory in Bhabanipur, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari attended a felicitation ceremony in Ward No. 63 of the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency and expressed his gratitude to the residents of the area through a series of thoughtful remarks.

Police Arrest Kumares Bhuiyan, Son of Former Trinamool MLA Mamata Bhuiyan, on Charges of Extortion and Creating Disturbance

MI News Service, Kharagpur : Police in the Daspur area of Paschim Medinipur district have arrested Kumares Bhuiyan, the son of former Trinamool Congress MLA Mamata Bhuiyan. After prolonged questioning, the Daspur police formally arrested him and said he would be produced before the court. Kumares Bhuiyan is currently serving as the vice-president of the Daspur-1 Panchayat Samiti. Local residents allege that he wielded considerable influence in the area due to his political background. Several allegations, including forcible extortion, creating disturbances, and spreading unrest, have been leveled against him. According to sources, police had taken Kumares into custody and questioned him at the police station before making the arrest. Reports state that when he reached one of his shops in the Balipota area, a group of people surrounded him, staged protests, and raised slogans. Seeing the tense situation, police arrived at the spot and took him to the police station. Kumares Bhuiyan comes from a prominent political family. His father, Ajit Bhuiyan, has been an influen-



tial Trinamool leader and former MLA in the district, while his mother, Mamata Bhuiyan, served as an MLA from the Daspur Assembly constituency three times. However, in the 2026 Assembly elections, the Mamata Banerjee-led All India Trinamool Congress did not nominate her as a candidate. Instead, the party gave the ticket to Ashish Hudait, who was defeated by BJP candidate Tapan Dutta. Kumares has also been accused of forcibly extorting money from contractors, promoters, and businessmen. A complaint regarding these allegations had reportedly been lodged at Daspur Police Station, based on which police initiated action. While Mamata Bhuiyan did not directly comment on the incident, she posted on Facebook that if the BJP tries to revive the old political culture of the CPI(M) in Bengal, the people will oppose it. Meanwhile, BJP leader Raju Ari said that multiple complaints had already been filed against Kumares Bhuiyan and that police had been informed earlier. He added that the matter would now have to be answered in court. Police are continuing their investigation into the case.

Reshmi Group Unveils Water Donation Campaign in Kharagpur to Provide Relief Amid Scorching Heat

MI News Service, Kharagpur :



Amid the continuously rising temperatures and scorching heat in Kharagpur city, Reshmi Group has taken a commendable initiative by launching a water donation campaign to provide relief to the common people. Considering the severe heatwave conditions prevailing in the city, the Reshmi Group has arranged a special drinking water stall outside the main gate of its factory, where passersby are being provided with chilled drinking water and cooling beverages. A large number of pedestrians, laborers, rickshaw pullers, vehicle drivers, and local residents are benefiting from this campaign every day. People traveling under the blazing sun are stopping at the stall to drink cold water, which is giving them much-needed relief from the intense heat. In the midst of soaring temperatures, this initiative has become a major source of comfort for the public. Reshmi Group CSR in-charge Natabar Biswal said that due to the excessive heat, cases of sunstroke and dehydration are increasing rapidly. Keeping social responsibility in mind, the group has started this water donation program so that needy people can get some relief from the harsh weather conditions. He added that serving humanity is the primary objective of the organization, and the campaign is being carried out with the same spirit. He further informed that the water donation program will continue till June 15, during which clean and chilled drinking water will be provided to people daily. Local residents have highly appreciated this initiative by Reshmi Group. According to them, such social work during extreme summer conditions is not only an example of humanity but also a great support for those in need. It is noteworthy that temperatures have been continuously rising in Kharagpur and other parts of the Paschim Medinipur district in recent days. Hot winds and intense sunlight during the afternoon hours have affected normal life. In such circumstances, the water donation campaign launched by Reshmi Group is spreading a message of relief and public service among the people.

West Midnapore: Trinamool Leader Arrested in Mohanpur With Firearm, 9 MM Revolver and Live Cartridges Recovered From House

MI News Service, Kharagpur : In a major operation, police arrested a Trinamool Congress leader from the Srichandanpur area under Mohanpur police station limits in West Midnapore district on charges of possessing illegal firearms. The arrested accused has been identified as Khalil Mallik, a resident of Srichandanpur village and a local Trinamool Congress panchayat member. The incident has triggered political reactions in the area. According to police sources, acting on a tip-off, Mohanpur police conducted a raid at the residence of Khalil Mallik. During the search operation, police recovered a 9 MM revolver and several rounds of live 9 MM cartridges from the house. Following the recovery of the weapon and ammunition, police immediately arrested the accused. A case has been registered against him under Sections 3/25(1B)(a) of the Arms Act. During the preliminary investigation, police are trying to determine whether the recovered firearm was used in any criminal activity and how the weapon came into the possession of the accused. Police officials said that the arrested accused, Khalil Mallik, will be pro-



duced before the Dantan ACJM Court. Police will also seek custody of the accused for further investigation into the matter. Following the incident, discussions and tension have spread across Srichandanpur and nearby areas. Opposition parties have started targeting the All India Trinamool Congress over the issue. Meanwhile, police stated that an impartial investigation is being carried out and that the full truth of the matter will emerge only after the investigation is completed.

TMC Leader Returns Encroached House and Land to Original Owner in Nadia

MI News Service, Nadia : In a dramatic turn of events following the change of government in West Bengal, a helpless family in Ranaghat in Nadia district has finally regained possession of their ancestral home and land on Sunday after allegedly being dispossessed for nearly eight years by a local Trinamool Congress leader. The incident, which has triggered strong political reactions in the district, is being viewed as part of the state-wide drive against illegal land occupation initiated after the new government assumed power. Speaking on Monday, Ranaghat Uttar Paschim MLA Parthasarathi Chatterjee claimed that the accused Trinamool leader personally returned the property to the rightful owners following administrative pressure. "The encroacher himself came and handed back the house and land," the MLA stated.

The incident took place at Ramnagar under the Ranaghat police station area. According to allegations made by the family of

Bisakha Das Debnath, residents of Ramnagar-I Gram Panchayat under Ranaghat Uttar Paschim Assembly constituency, their tin-roofed residence and adjoining land had been forcibly occupied nearly eight years ago by an influential local Trinamool leader who allegedly used political power and intimidation to seize the property. The family alleged that despite approaching the police, local administration, and even the courts over the years, they failed to regain possession of their home. They further claimed that although the court had issued clear directives in their favour, the accused refused to vacate the premises and instead continued to threaten them, forcing the family to leave the area out of fear for their safety. According to local residents, the occupied property had later been converted into a Trinamool party club office, where several anti-social activities allegedly took place over the years. After the property was finally vacated, locals reportedly recovered liquor



bottles, glasses, and other objectionable materials during a search of the premises.

The political atmosphere surrounding the incident intensified after the recent change in government in the state. Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has reportedly issued strict instructions against illegal occupation of land and misuse of political influence, warning that no such acts would be tolerated under the new administration. Following the government's strong stance, the local administration and po-

lice reportedly became active in addressing long-pending complaints related to land grabbing and illegal occupation.

Ultimately, in the presence of officials from Ranaghat Police Station and the deputy head of the local panchayat, the accused Trinamool worker was compelled to hand over the keys of the house to the rightful owners after nearly eight years. Overwhelmed with emotion after returning to her home, Bisakha Das Debnath broke down in tears and thanked Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari for the intervention. "Had the government not changed, we would never have got our house back. I offer my respect to the Chief Minister," she said emotionally. Reacting to the development, BJP MLA Parthasarathi Chatterjee said, "Under the Chief Minister's direction, ordinary people of the state are finally getting back their lost dignity and property. Those who misused power to oppress common citizens for years are now facing the consequences."

New Traffic Police Outpost Inaugurated at Beltala Through Joint Initiative of Jhargram District Police and National Highways Authority



MI News Service, Kharagpur : In an effort to further strengthen road safety measures and improve traffic management on the national highway, a new traffic police outpost was inaugurated at the Beltala area under the Lodhashuli Highway Sub Traffic Guard Station through the joint initiative of Jhargram District Police and the National Highways Authority of India. With the opening of this new traffic police outpost, authorities expect better control over highway accidents, smoother traffic management, and quicker response during emergencies on the national highway. Senior police officials, representatives of the National Highways Authority, and local public representatives were present at the inauguration programme. Officials stated that the Lodhashuli and Beltala stretch is one of the busiest sections of the national highway, with a large number of goods carriers and passenger vehicles passing through the area daily. Considering the increasing traffic pressure, the need for a permanent traffic police outpost had been felt for a long time. Through the new outpost, monitoring of traffic rule violations, action against overloaded vehicles, road safety awareness campaigns, and immediate relief operations in case of accidents can now be carried out more effectively. During the programme, officials appealed to vehicle drivers to strictly follow traffic regulations, maintain prescribed speed limits, and use helmets and seat belts at all times. They emphasized that road safety is not solely the responsibility of the police or administration, but a collective responsibility of all citizens. Local residents also expressed happiness over the inauguration of the new traffic outpost, stating that it would help reduce road accidents in the area and provide a safer environment for travellers.

BJP MLA Asim Kumar Biswas Conducts Surprise Hospital Inspection in Ranaghat, Reviews Healthcare Services

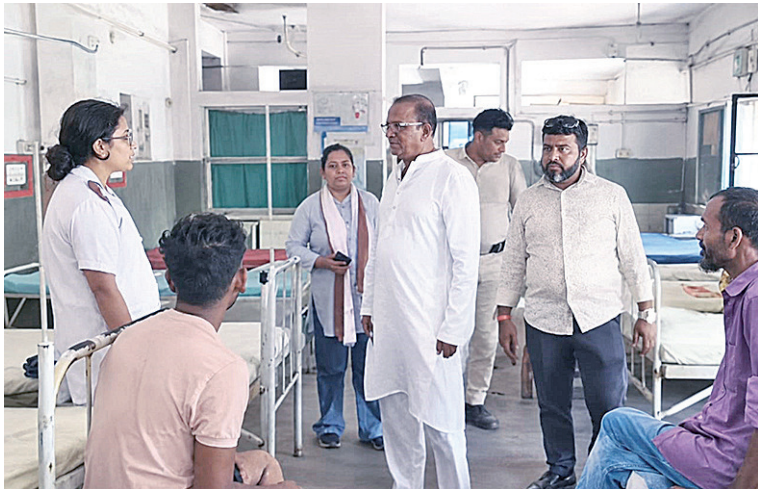
Dipankar Edbar, Ranaghat (Nadia)

In a significant move aimed at assessing the condition of public healthcare services at the grassroots level, Asim Kumar Biswas conducted a surprise inspection of hospitals under the Ranaghat Dakshin Assembly constituency on Sunday. The visit comes at a time when healthcare delivery in government hospitals continues to remain a major public concern across several districts of the state.

The BJP legislator visited Ranaghat Anulias Sub-Divisional Hospital and Habibpur Rural Hospital to evaluate whether essential medical services are reaching common people efficiently and to identify gaps in infrastructure, staffing and patient care. The unannounced visit triggered considerable discussion in local administrative and political circles.

During the inspection, the MLA toured several departments of both hospitals, including outpatient sections, emergency units, patient wards and medicine distribution counters. He interacted with doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and hospital administrators to understand the operational challenges being faced by the institutions.

According to hospital sources,



discussions focused on the availability of doctors, patient load management, emergency healthcare response, medicine supply and the overall functioning of the healthcare system. Special attention was reportedly given to whether patients are receiving timely treatment and if existing medical infrastructure is adequate to handle increasing pressure on government hospitals.

Apart from holding meetings with hospital authorities, Asim Kumar Biswas also directly interacted with patients and their family members. He sought feedback regarding treatment facilities,

waiting time, availability of medicines and the behaviour of hospital staff. Several patients reportedly raised concerns over overcrowding, shortage of medical personnel and delays in diagnostic services.

Sources indicated that the state administration has recently laid renewed emphasis on improving healthcare services in government-run hospitals. Local representatives have reportedly been asked to monitor the condition of hospitals and ensure that public grievances related to healthcare are addressed promptly. Political observers be-

lieve the surprise inspection was part of that broader initiative.

Speaking after the visit, the MLA said that ensuring accessible and improved healthcare for ordinary citizens remains a priority. He assured that issues identified during the inspection would be communicated to the concerned authorities and necessary steps would be taken for early resolution.

"The objective is to ensure that people receive proper treatment without unnecessary hardship. If there are shortcomings anywhere, appropriate measures will be initiated at the earliest," he said.

The visit has drawn mixed reactions from residents and political observers alike. While many locals welcomed the direct involvement of a public representative in monitoring healthcare facilities, others pointed out that long-term structural improvements and increased manpower would be necessary to bring visible change to the public health system.

Observers also noted that such surprise inspections reflect the growing political significance of healthcare governance in the state, particularly at a time when accessibility and quality of medical services continue to influence public opinion in both rural and semi-urban regions.

State Govt Adopts NEP, Announces Major Edu Reforms and Scholarships

MI News Service, Kolkata: With the change in government, West Bengal has officially aligned its education system with the National Education Policy (NEP), marking a major shift in the state's academic framework. Chief Minister SuwenduAdhikari on Monday delivered a strong message on restructuring both government and private education institutions in the state.

The announcement was made during a felicitation ceremony held at DhonoDhanyo Auditorium in Kolkata, where meritorious students of Madhyamik and Higher Secondary examinations were honoured. The Chief Minister also interacted with students and emphasised the importance of education, discipline and continuous learning.

As part of the NEP rollout, the state government has



initiated plans to introduce PM SHRI schools across West Bengal, with at least one such school in every block. The objective is to modernise education, improve infrastructure, and enhance learning outcomes through updated syllabus design, digital classrooms and skill-based teaching methods.

The reforms will not only focus on Kolkata but also extend to district and ru-

ral schools to ensure equal quality of education across the state. Officials said that several government and government-aided schools will be upgraded under this programme.

During the event, the Chief Minister also announced the launch of the "Vivekananda Merit Scholarship," which will be awarded based on merit and financial background rather than religious identity.

He said the initiative aims to ensure equal opportunities for deserving students from all communities.

Referring to historical figures such as Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, he encouraged students to stay focused on academic excellence and self-development. He also stressed that education is the most powerful tool for nation-building.

The Chief Minister further stated that several earlier religion-based welfare schemes have been discontinued and replaced with merit-based support systems. He added that the scholarship application process will be managed through the state Education Department and that the scheme, which existed earlier but was later discontinued, has now been revived under the new administration.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari felicitates meritorious students of the 2026 Madhyamik, Higher Secondary, Higher Secondary (Technical and Vocational), ICSE, ISC, CBSE (Class 10 and 12), and Madrasa examinations during a grand ceremony at the Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium in Kolkata on Monday.

Damayanti Sen Reappointed to Lead Women's Safety Probe Committee in West Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has once again brought senior IPS officer Damayanti Sen into a key investigative role, assigning her to a newly formed committee on women's safety and crimes against women in the state.

Damayanti Sen, best known for investigating the 2012 Park Street gang rape case involving Suzette Jordan, had in recent years remained away from major high-profile investigations. Despite her seniority and reputation, she was reportedly not given significant case responsibilities during the previous administration and was later moved to different administrative postings within the police hierarchy.

On Monday, Chief Minister



Damayanti Sen

SuwenduAdhikari announced the formation of a special committee to investigate several incidents of alleged women's harassment across the state, including cases from areas such as Sandeshkha-

li, Kasba and Bagtui. The committee will be headed by retired Calcutta High Court judge SamaptiChattoopadhyay, while Damayanti Sen will serve as the lead investigating officer.

The panel is scheduled to begin its work from June 1, with preliminary data collection already underway.

A 1996-batch IPS officer, Sen was the first woman Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) in Kolkata Police and later served as Special Commissioner. She is known for her efficient handling of sensitive cases, including the Park Street investigation, which was solved in a short span of time.

The government stated that the committee will focus on reviewing past cases of violence and strengthening investigative processes related to crimes against women. Officials believe her experience will be crucial in addressing pending and complex cases across the state.

Bengal govt ends religion-based aid

Continued form Pg 1: representatives of people, excluding those who are not under the Lokayukta, will be under the purview of this Commission," he said, adding that the government is hopeful of the Commission filing FIRs within 30 days of its formation.

Regarding the probe into cases of crimes against women and girl child, the Chief minister said the Commission will be chaired by retired judge Justice Samapti Chatterjee, with IPS officer Damayanti Sen as member secretary.

"This Commission will look into atrocities committed over the past several years in the state, particularly against women and children, including those from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minority communities. It will investigate all cases, excluding those that are sub judice or are being probed by the central investigating agencies. All other cases will be investigated by the Commission, including Sandeshkhali, post-poll violence, and the Bogtui incident, where women were either murdered or physically tortured," the chief minister said.

PM Modi to hold talks

Continued form Pg 1: and conveyed warm wishes from the King and Queen of Sweden.

Earlier, the prime minister's aircraft was escorted by Swedish Air Force jets as it entered the European country's airspace.

He was given a warm welcome at the airport by his Swedish counterpart in a special gesture. PM Modi had earlier visited Sweden in 2018 for the first-ever India-Nordic Summit.

Soon after arriving in Gothenburg, Modi met members of the Indian diaspora. He was welcomed with musical performances, including the rendition of 'Vaishnava Jana To' bhajan by Swedish opera singer Charlotta Hultd and a mesmerising Bharatanatyam performance by the students of Lilla Akademien.

During the reception, in the presence of PM Kristersson, a spectacular example of Bengali culture was showcased. "Bengali culture is popular world over and Sweden is no exception," Modi said on social media.

V D Satheesan sworn in as new

Continued form Pg 1: Arlekar and submitting the final list of ministers who were sworn in with him. The final cabinet list was prepared after detailed discussions among allies in the United Democratic Front (UDF).

Satheesan will hold the finance portfolio in addition to serving as Chief Minister. Senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala has been given charge of the Home department.

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)and other leaders from UDF alliance partners have also been included in the ministry.

The alliance has also announced Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan as the Speaker of the Kerala Assembly, while Shanimol Usman will serve as Deputy Speaker.

Rupee falls to record low

Continued form Pg 1: the government placed silver imports under a licensed category to regulate incoming shipments.

"For now, elevated crude oil prices, global uncertainty, and a stronger dollar continue to remain key risks for the rupee. However, the encouraging sign for markets is that both the government and the RBI have already started taking proactive measures to manage the situation before it becomes more uncomfortable," CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said.

"Technically, 94.80-95.10 is expected to act as an important support zone for USD-INR, while 96.00-96.50 remains a strong resistance area in the near term," Pabari added.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.32, higher by 0.04% due to simmering Iran tensions.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading up 1.83% at \$111.26 per barrel in futures trade.

"With the rise in oil prices to beyond USD 111.50 per barrel, rupee will be affected the most as rising oil prices increases the outflows of U.S. dollar along with the outflows already happening due to FPIs," said Anil Kumar Bhansali Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP.

The government, on May 13, hiked import duty on precious metals - gold, and silver - from 6% to 15%. The effective duty (including 3% IGST) is over 18%.

It was hiked to control the outflow of forex by curbing non-essential imports. "Only stoppage of war and reopening of the Strait of Hormuz can bring about a lower demand on the USD/rupee pair, else 100 seems to be on the card if RBI does not announce any schemes to increase dollar inflow into the country," Bhansali added.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex tanked 833.20 points to 74,404.79 in early trade, while the Nifty was down 234 points to 23,401.70.

Foreign Institutional Investors remained net buyers for the second straight session, purchasing equities worth ₹1,329.17 crore on Friday (May 15, 2026), according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, India's forex reserves jumped by USD 684.295 billion to USD 696.988 billion during the week ended May 8, the Reserve Bank said. The overall reserves had, however, dropped by USD 7.794 billion to USD 690.693 billion in the previous reporting week.

KWBA Hosts 'Glamour & Spices'



MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata Women's Business Alliance organised the maiden edition of "Glamour & Spices" in Kolkata to celebrate motherhood, women empowerment and creativity. The event brought together women entrepreneurs, homemakers, professionals and creators under one platform.

One of the major attractions was the "Mayer Haater-Ranna" culinary showcase, celebrating traditional food and family emotions. The competition witnessed participation from both women and male cooking enthusiasts.

The event also featured a colourful multi-generational

fashion show with participants aged between 2 and 60 years, promoting inclusivity, confidence and talent. Fashion presentations by Sristi Boutique, MR Creation, Appie Blossom and KolkataNama added glamour to the evening.

The programme was led by KWBA founder members including Soma Chakraborty, PiyaliGoswami, Swati Das Chakraborty, Moumita Mukherjee and Sunanda Banerjee.

Speaking at the event, Soma Chakraborty said KWBA aims to create a strong platform for women to connect, grow and achieve success together.

CU Law Students Begin Court Internship Prog



MI News Service, Kolkata: University of Calcutta has launched a Court Visit and Internship Programme for final-year law students of its Hazra Campus to provide practical exposure beyond classroom learning. The initiative is being conducted under the supervision of Barun Kumar Das.

As part of the programme, students visited the City Civil Court and Industrial Tribunal on Monday to observe courtroom procedures and judicial functioning firsthand.

The month-long training programme for the 2025-26 academic session began on May 12. Students have already visited several courts including the Family Court, Bankshall Court and Land Tribunal. They were introduced to courtroom proceedings, legal arguments, witness examinations and the role of judges.

Dr. Das said the initiative aims to help students gain real-life understanding of the judicial system and strengthen their professional skills as future lawyers and judges.

Abhishek files case in High Court

MI News Service, Kolkata: Abhishek Banerjee has approached the court seeking the quashing of an FIR filed against him. The FIR was lodged with the Cyber Cell in Bidhannagar. Abhishek Banerjee has filed a petition requesting that this FIR be set aside. The FIR was registered with the Cyber Crime

Branch of the Bidhannagar Police in connection with remarks made by Abhishek Banerjee during his election campaign. The complaint was filed by citing links to various speeches delivered by Abhishek at multiple locations; based on this complaint, an FIR was registered under a total of five sections.

Women to Travel Free on Long-Distance Govt Buses in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Minister Agnimitra Paul on Monday announced that women in the state will be able to travel completely free of cost on long-distance government buses as well. The announcement came after the second Cabinet meeting of the newly elected BJP government at Nabanna.

The BJP had earlier promised free bus travel for women if voted to power in West Bengal. However, there was uncertainty regarding whether the benefit would apply only to local buses



Agnimitra Paul

or also to long-distance govern-

ment services. Addressing the media, Agnimitra Paul, who holds the Urban Development and Women and Child Welfare portfolios, clarified that women would receive free travel facilities on all government-operated buses, including long-route services.

The new scheme will come into effect from June 1. From that date, women passengers travelling on government buses across the state will not have to pay any fare. Many commuters welcomed the announcement

and described it as a major relief for working women, students and daily passengers.

Reacting to the decision, Left leader Sujan Chakraborty said that the state currently lacks an adequate number of government buses and urged the administration to focus on increasing the fleet first. In response, Agnimitra Paul stated that no final decision has yet been taken regarding expansion of the bus fleet, though the government is planning to introduce several electric buses in the near future.

State Govt Announces Annapurna Bhandar Scheme and Approves 7th Pay Commission

MI News Service, Kolkata: The BJP government in West Bengal has officially announced the rollout of the Annapurna Bhandar scheme from June 1, fulfilling one of its key election promises focused on women's welfare. The announcement was made on Monday by minister Agnimitra Paul following the second Cabinet meeting of the newly formed state government.

Addressing the media after the meeting, the minister explained the eligibility criteria and application process for the scheme. She stated that all women who were earlier beneficiaries of the LakshmiBhandar scheme would be automatically included under Annapurna Bhandar. Eligible beneficiaries will receive ₹3,000 directly into their bank accounts through direct benefit transfer.

The government had earlier promised that all eligible women in the state would be covered under this welfare initiative after coming to power. Chief Min-



Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari was present at the cabinet meeting, along with the state's ministers and other distinguished officials on Monday.

ister SuwenduAdhikari had also assured that the scheme would be implemented without delay after formation of the government.

The second Cabinet meeting, held just nine days after the government assumed office, also discussed several major policy decisions, including the implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission and the discontin-

uation of religion-based allowances. Following the meeting, Agnimitra Paul confirmed that the Annapurna Bhandar scheme will officially begin from June 1.

The minister also addressed concerns regarding individuals whose names were reportedly removed from beneficiary lists during the SIR verification process. She clarified that people who obtained citizenship under

Suwendu Criticises Previous Govt Over Jal Jeevan Mission Implementation

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister SuwenduAdhikari on Monday criticised the previous Trinamool Congress government over the implementation of the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission, alleging that the scheme existed mostly "on paper" in the state despite financial support from the Union government.

The remarks were made during a meeting with officials of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti regarding implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in West Bengal. Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Agarwal and several senior officials were also present during the discussions. During the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) related to

the scheme was signed between the Centre and the state government.

Addressing the officials, SuwenduAdhikari claimed that the previous government failed to execute the project properly despite receiving central funds. He also alleged that the original Jal Jeevan Mission was renamed as "Jal Swapna" by the former administration instead of being implemented under the central framework.

Following the signing, the Chief Minister stated that the Centre has already provided around 29,000 crore for the project. He also referred to earlier changes made by the previous state government, alleging that the scheme had been renamed

as "Jal Swapna" instead of being implemented under the original central framework.

He further mentioned that a second-phase MoU worth approximately ₹39,000 crore has now been signed. Along with this, irrigation-related projects will also be supported under the initiative.

The Chief Minister added that the state's financial condition is not strong and said that cooperation from the Central government is essential to successfully complete such large-scale infrastructure projects. He emphasized that coordinated efforts between the Centre and the state will help ensure faster implementation of drinking water facilities in rural areas.

According to the BJP government, West Bengal had remained outside the central scheme earlier because of disagreements between the Centre and the then state government. Following the political change after the 2026 Assembly elections, the state has now started joining several major central initiatives.

The inclusion of West Bengal in the Jal Jeevan Mission comes after the state's participation in other central schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and implementation-related discussions around the National Education Policy. The BJP government has stated that the move will help ensure better infrastructure and purified drinking water supply to rural households across Bengal.

Name Change
I, Nazimuddin Mondal (Old Name) S/o Sahajan Mandal Residing at Bara Chupria, Chupria, Hanchhali, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Nazimuddin Mondal (Old Name) to Nazimuddin Mondal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nazimuddin Mondal (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit No- 56/2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on Dated 18-05-2026. Nazimuddin Mondal (New Name) and Nazimuddin Mondal (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Roshan Kumar Singh (Old Name) S/o Arjun Singh Residing at 1/67, Nelinagar, Po - Haltu, Ps - Garfa, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700078, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Roshan Kumar Singh (Old Name) to Roshan Singh (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Roshan Singh (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on Dated 15-05-2026. Roshan Singh (New Name) and Roshan Kumar Singh (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Anusree Palit (Old Name) W/o Mintu Kumar Roy Residing at Chickrand Jalapara, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712304, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Anusree Palit (Old Name) to Anusree Palit Roy (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Anusree Palit Roy (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on Dated 13-05-2026. Anusree Palit Roy (New Name) and Anusree Palit (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mira Mehta (Old Name) W/o Tarun Mehta Residing at Diamond City West, Tower - 5, Flat - 7C, 7B, Hoch Minsh Sarani, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700061, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Mira Mehta (Old Name) to Meera Mehta (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Meera Mehta (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on Dated 14-05-2026. Meera Mehta (New Name) and Mira Mehta (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, SAIRUN NISHA(OLD NAME),WIFE OF MOHAMMAD NAYEEM,RESIDENT OF VILL-CHHOTI TALAB,PAKRI BARWAN,NAWADA BIHAR-805124, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHAMMAD NAYEEM NISHA(OLD NAME) TO NAZMA BEGAM(NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS NAZMA BEGAM(NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE,VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO. 16 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 18/05/2026. NAZMA BEGAM(NEW NAME) AND SAIRUN NISHA(OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMMAD NAYEEM UDDIN(OLD NAME),SON OF SUBEJAN MIYAN, RESIDENT OF VILL-CHHOTI TALAB,PAKRI BARWAN,NAWADA BIHAR-805124, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHAMMAD NAYEEM UDDIN(OLD NAME) TO MOHAMMAD NAYEEM(NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS MOHAMMAD NAYEEM(NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE,VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO. 15 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 18/05/2026. MOHAMMAD NAYEEM(NEW NAME) AND MOHAMMAD NAYEEM UDDIN(OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Jahir Hasan S/o, Md. Habibullah, R/o, Khanyan Paschim Para, Khanyan, Pandua, Hooghly-712147, W.B, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sonali Sarkar to Indrani Rudra (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Indrani Rudra in all purpose, vide affidavit No. 12123 sworn before the Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court, on 14/05/2026. I, Indrani Rudra & Sonali Sarkar W/o. Asim Kumar Rudra, D/o. Tarun Sarkar, both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sonali Sarkar (old name) W/o. Asim Kumar Rudra, D/o. Tarun Sarkar, R/o. 209, Jugipara Lane, Jain Mandir, Pandua, Hooghly-712101, W.B, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sonali Sarkar to Indrani Rudra (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Indrani Rudra in all purpose, vide affidavit No. 12123 sworn before the Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court, on 14/05/2026. I, Indrani Rudra & Sonali Sarkar W/o. Asim Kumar Rudra, D/o. Tarun Sarkar, both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ragini Shaw(Old Name) W/o Jwala Prasad Shaw, residing at Flat No. 2B, 2nd Floor, Block-A, Vasundhara Garden, 1/1B/2, Uma Kanta Sen Lane, Pakpara, P.O. Ghuuchudanga, Kolkata - 700030, have changed my name and shall henceforth known as Ragani Shaw (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Barasat Court, North 24 Parganas, W.B vide affidavit no. 3076/26 dated 12.05.2026, Ragini Shaw (Old Name) and Ragani Shaw (New Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, LILAM KUMARI LODHA W/o Chandra Prakash Jain, D/o Magan Kumar Lodha R/o F/3, Block-B3, Meena Residency, Teghoria, Dhalipara, P.O.-Hatiraa, P.S.-Baguiati, Dist.- 24Pgs (N), Kolkata-700157 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as NEELAM JAIN as declared before the Notary Public at Barasat Court vide affidavit dated 14.05.2026. LILAM KUMARI LODHA and NEELAM JAIN both are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Chandan Kumar Tiwari son of Late Gajandhar Tiwari residing at 5, Hat Lane, Mallick Fatak, P.O. & Dist. Howrah-711101 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Swapan Saha (Old Name) to Swapan Kumar Saha (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Swapan Kumar Saha (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 19540 sworn before the Notary Public at North 24 Parganas on Dated 26-08-2010. Swapan Kumar Saha (New Name) and Swapan Saha (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MD ALAUDDIN S/o- JALAUDDIN Residing at, Vill-Babupur, Post- Babupur, Ps- Englishbazar, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732128, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MD ALAUDDIN To ALAUDDIN (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be known as (New Name) ALAUDDIN in all purpose. Vide an affidavit No- 2242 On Date 15 May 2026. Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, ALAUDDIN and MD ALAUDDIN both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Pushpa Devi Khemka (Old Name) D/o Parameshwar Lal Agarwal Residing at 62, B.B.D Road, Bipin Villa, 3rd floor, Hindmotor, District-Hooghly, Pin- 712233, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Pushpa Devi Khemka (Old Name) to Puspadevi Khemka (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Puspadevi Khemka (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 12-05-2026. Puspadevi Khemka (New Name) and Pushpa Devi Khemka (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sumita Mitra (Old Name) W/o Tushar Kumar Mitra Residing at 202A Kalicharan Ghosh Road, Sinthee, District - Kolkata, Pin- 700050, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Sumita Mitra (Old Name) to Sunita Mitra (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sunita Mitra (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 52/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 18-05-2026. Sunita Mitra (New Name) and Sumita Mitra (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Tushar Kr Mitra, Tusar Kumar Mitra, Tushar Mitra (Old Name) S/o Santosh Kumar Mitra Residing at 202A Kali Charan Ghosh Road, Sinthee, District - Kolkata, Pin- 700050, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Tushar Kr Mitra, Tusar Kumar Mitra, Tushar Mitra (Old Name) to Tushar Kumar Mitra (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Tushar Kumar Mitra (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 51/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 18-05-2026. Tushar Kumar Mitra (New Name) and Tushar Kr Mitra, Tusar Kumar Mitra, Tushar Mitra (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Rafat Jahan, Raffat Jhan Ariff (Old Name) W/o Arfeen Ariff Residing at Swarna Apartment,602, Brahmapur Road, Brahmapur, Vtc-P-0 Brahmapur, District- South 24 Parganas, Pin-700096, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Rafat Jahan, Raffat Jhan Ariff (Old Name) to Raffat Jahan (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Raffat Jahan (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 912 Sworn before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Kolkata on Dated 11-02-2026. Raffat Jahan (New Name) and Rafat Jahan, Raffat Jhan Ariff (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Meena Kochar, Meena Sethia (Old Name) W/o Bhim Raj Kochar Residing at 3/4, Chinta Mani Dey Road, Vtc-P-0 Howrah, District- Howrah, Pin- 711101, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Meena Kochar, Meena Sethia (Old Name) to Meena Devi Kochar (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Meena Devi Kochar (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 53/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 18-05-2026. Meena Devi Kochar (New Name) and Meena Kochar, Meena Sethia (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Wasimuddin, Md Wasimuddin (Old Name) S/o Md Sahabuddin Residing at Shibpur, Karjana Chati, Bhatar, Karjana Chati, District- Purba Bardhaman, Pin- 713102, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Wasimuddin, Md Wasimuddin (Old Name) to Md Wasim Uddin (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Md Wasim Uddin (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 55/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 18-05-2026. Md Wasim Uddin (New Name) and Wasimuddin (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Santosh Kumar Shaw (Old Name) S/o Satrugsha Shaw Residing at 472, Vidhyasagar Park, 8 Lane, Bandroni, Vtc- Bandroni, District- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700070, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Santosh Kumar Shaw (Old Name) to Santosh Shaw (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Santosh Shaw (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 54/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 18-05-2026. Santosh Shaw (New Name) and Santosh Kumar Shaw (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Swapan Saha (Old Name) S/o Late Bidhu Bhusan Saha, Resident Of Anandakole Ashram Road, Panihati (M), Sodpur, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700110, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Swapan Saha (Old Name) to Swapan Kumar Saha (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Swapan Kumar Saha (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 19540 sworn before the Notary Public at North 24 Parganas on Dated 26-08-2010. Swapan Kumar Saha (New Name) and Swapan Saha (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, MUSRRAT KARIM (OLD NAME), WIFE OF ABDUL QADIR, RESIDENT OF MIG 54, PHASE -1, SERAMPORE HOUSING ESTATE, RISHRA, DIST - HOOGHLY, PIN- 712248, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MUSRRAT KARIM (OLD NAME) TO MUSARRAT KARIM (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS MUSARRAT KARIM (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 24 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 18/05/2026. MUSARRAT KARIM (NEW NAME) AND MUSRRAT KARIM (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I, Vedula Padmini (old name) W/o Somnath Saha, residing at CE 1/B/112, Street No. 181, AAI, New Town, Kolkata-700156, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Vedula Padmini (Old Name) to Vedula Padmini Saha (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Vedula Padmini Saha (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. Vedula Padmini Saha (New Name) and Vedula Padmini (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, NEMAI CHANDRA DOLUI(Old Name) S/o LATE NALIN DOLUI & H/ MADHUBI DOLUI residing at Address- VILL-NOWAPARA,PO-NOWAPARA,PS-AMTA, DIST-HOWRAH, PIN-711401,INDIA, W.B have changed and shall henceforth be known as NEMAI DOLUI (New Name) as declare before the Notary Public, Kolkata vide affidavit dated 18/05/2026 and henceforth NEMAI CHANDRA DOLUI(Old Name) and NEMAI DOLUI(New Name) both are same and one identical person

NAME CHANGE
I,MANVI KAUR SAINI, MANVI SAINI(OLD NAME),SON OF TEJINDER SINGH SAINI,RESIDENT OF 3/1 MANDEVILLE GARDENS,PO-BALLYGUNGE, KOLKATA-700018, WEST BENGAL, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MANVI KAUR SAINI, MANVI SAINI(OLD NAME) TO MANVI SAINI(NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS MANVI SAINI(NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE,VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO. 18 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 14/05/2026. MANVI SAINI(NEW NAME) AND MANVI KAUR SAINI, MANVI SAINI(OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MAMATAZ BEGAM W/o MD SABIRULLA Residing at - Vill- B D Sherpur, Post- Sherpur, Ps- Bharatpur, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742301, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MAMATAZ BEGAM To MUSAMMAT DALIA BEGAM (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) MUSAMMAT DALIA BEGAM in all purpose Vide an affidavit No- 2248 On Date 15 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, MUSAMMAT DALIA BEGAM and MAMATAZ BEGAM both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MD SABIRULLA S/o MD HABIL Residing at - Vill- B D Sherpur, Post- Sherpur, Ps- Bharatpur, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742301, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MD SABIRULLA To MD SABIRULLA (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) MD SABIRULLA in all purpose Vide an affidavit No- 2247 On Date 15 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, MD SABIRULLA and MD SABIRULLA both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) NAJRUL SK S/o YASIN SK Residing at - Vill- Jhaukhola Road, Post- Cossimbazar, Ps- Berhampore, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742102, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from NAJRUL SK To NAZRUL SK (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) NAZRUL SK in all purpose Vide an affidavit No- 2246 On Date 15 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, NAZRUL SK and NAJRUL SK both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) PRODIP KR DAS S/o NIRMAL KUMAR DAS Residing at, - 219, Amar Chakraborty Road, Post- Khagra, Ps- Berhampore, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742103, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from PRODIP KR DAS To PRADIP KUMAR DAS (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) PRADIP KUMAR DAS in all purpose Vide an affidavit No- 2245 On Date 15 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, PRADIP KUMAR DAS and PRODIP KR DAS both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) AMJAD ALI KHA S/o JAYNAL KHA Residing at, Mahisar, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742137, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from AMJAD ALI KHA To AMJAD ALI KHAN (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) AMJAD ALI KHAN in all purpose Vide an affidavit No- 2244 On Date 15 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, AMJAD ALI KHAN and AMJAD ALI KHA both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) JAHAN SK S/o CHAMATKAR Residing at, Vill-Parameshwarpur, Post - Kumarsanda, Ps- Kandi, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742136, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from JAHAN SK To SEIKH JAHANGIR ALI (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) SEIKH JAHANGIR ALI in all purpose Vide an affidavit No- 2243 On Date 15 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, SEIKH JAHANGIR ALI and JAHAN SK both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kayenat Firdous (old name), W/o Md Javed, residing at G-29, BANGLA BASTI, P.O.- GARDEN REACH, Kolkata, 700024, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Kayenat Firdous (Old Name) to Kainat Firdaus (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Kainat Firdaus (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 18/05/2026. Kainat Firdaus (New Name) and Kayenat Firdous (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sabra Khatun (old name), W/o Jamiruddin SK, residing at Vill. & P.O.- Chandi, P.S.- Bishnupur, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743503, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sabra Khatun (Old Name) to Sabera Beoya (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sabera Beoya (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 18/05/2026. Sabera Beoya (New Name) and Sabra Khatun (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Abdul Rasid Sekh (old name) S/o Jakir Sekh, residing at Vill- Enayetnagar, P.O.- Chak Enayetnagar, P.S.- Bishnupur, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743503, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Jakir Hossain Sekh (Old Name) to Abdul Roshid Sekh (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Abdul Roshid Sekh (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 18/05/2026. Abdul Roshid Sekh (New Name) and Abdul Rasid Sekh (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Jakir Hossain Sekh (old name) S/o Samasahad Sekh, residing at Vill- Enayetnagar, P.O.- Chak Enayetnagar, P.S.- Bishnupur, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743503, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Jakir Hossain Sekh (Old Name) to Jakir Sekh (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Jakir Sekh (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 18/05/2026. Jakir Sekh (New Name) and Jakir Hossain Sekh (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Abdul Sukur Sekh (Old Name), Son Of Sk Abdul Salam, Resident Of Chakkirshinarampur, Krishnarampur, Chanditala-II, Hooghly- 712702, West Bengal Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Abdul Sukur Sekh (Old Name) To Sk Abdul Sukur (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Sk Abdul Sukur (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 16 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/05/2026. Sk Abdul Sukur (New Name) And Abdul Sukur Sekh (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, MAHENDRA BHALOTIA (OLD NAME), SON OF PYARELAL BHALOTIA, RESIDENT OF SADANAGA, CHAKRABORTY ROAD, GISS FACTORY COMPOUND RAMBANU (M), DIST- PASCHIM BARDHAMAN, PIN- 713358, DO HEREBY DECLARED THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MAHENDRA BHALOTIA (OLD NAME) TO MAHENDRA BHALOTIA (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS MAHENDRA BHALOTIA (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 18/05/2026. MAHENDRA BHALOTIA (NEW NAME) AND MAHENDRA BHALOTIA (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I, CHANDRANI SARKER(OLD NAME),WIFE OF INDRAJIT SARKAR, D/O- LATE AJIT KUMAR ROY, RESIDENT OF 81 NORDI BAKAR,1ST FLOOR, FLAT NO-1,PO-HALTU, PS-GARSA, KOLKATA-700078, WEST BENGAL, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM CHANDRANI SARKER(OLD NAME) TO CHANDRANI SARKAR(NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS CHANDRANI SARKAR(NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE,VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 26 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 18/05/2026. CHANDRANI SARKAR(NEW NAME) AND CHANDRANI SARKER (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I,ANISUR RAHMAN(OLD NAME),SON OF LATE MUJIBAR RAHAMAN,RESIDENT OF TARAFDAR PARA,DOSHADRONI,RAJARHAT GOALPUR,PO-1,NOSHADRONI, PIN-700136, WEST BENGAL, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM ANISUR RAHMAN(OLD NAME) TO ANISUR RAHAMAN(NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS ANISUR RAHAMAN (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 25 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 18/05/2026. ANISUR RAHAMAN(NEW NAME) AND ANISUR RAHMAN(OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I, SAZID KHAN (OLD NAME), SON OF MAZID KHAN, RESIDENT OF 21, SADHNA KUNDA, SAZID KHAN ROAD, NEAR UDDU SCHOOL, P.O.- SREEBHUMI, P.S.- LAKE TOWN, DIST.- NORTH 24 PARGANAS, PIN- 700048, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SAZID KHAN (OLD NAME) TO SAJID KHAN (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SAJID KHAN (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 23 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 18/05/2026. SAJID KHAN (NEW NAME) AND SAZID KHAN (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I, Nur Islam (old name), S/o Abdul Chatter Mondal, residing at KAZIPARA MAIN ROAD, KAZIPARA, BARASAT, NORTH 24 PGS- 700124, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nur Islam (Old Name) to Noor Islam (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Noor Islam (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Ld 1st class judicial magistrate at Alipore on 18/05/2026. Noor Islam (New Name) and Nur Islam (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, NEEATI RASHI (OLD NAME), DAUGHTER OF SANJAY KUMAR JHA, RESIDENT OF FLAT NO. 52, DUMJIM PARK, P.S.- LAKE TOWN, DIST.- 24 PARGANAS NORTH, PIN- 700055, DO HEREBY DECLARED THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME NEEATI RASHI (OLD NAME) TO NEEATI JHA (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS NEEATI JHA (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO. 622 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT PATNA ON 29/05/2008, NEEATI JHA (NEW NAME) AND NEEATI RASHI (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Tracks Of Triumph: Howrah Division Defies Tough Terrain In Mega Infrastructure Overhaul To Gift Passengers Safer, Smoother, And Punctual Journeys

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 18, 2026 : In a massive boost to passenger safety, train punctuality, and travel comfort, the Howrah Division of Eastern Railway has successfully pulled off a highly complex "Mega Block" infrastructure upgrade on the Bandel – Katwa section. This monumental operation was executed under the visionary leadership of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, and monitored flawlessly on the ground under the guidance of Shri Vishal Kapoor, Divisional Railway Manager of Howrah Division. The multi-departmental operation was completed within a combined block window of approximately 450 minutes. Frontline railway engineers and technicians faced a major challenge at the construction sites as they battled difficult terrain and continuous soil collapse. Despite the loose dirt shifting and collapsing repeatedly, the teams managed the entire operation brilliantly within the tight, marginal time allocated for the block, ensuring that the passenger train services could resume safely without unnecessary delays.

The mega block successfully delivered two major structural engineering works aimed at removing speed bottlenecks and modernizing the line. First, a new Limited Height Subway was constructed near Jirat station at Kilometer 26/13-15 on the Bandel –



Katwa section. Led by Shri Alok, Special Divisional Engineer of Howrah, teams successfully pushed massive concrete boxes under the tracks to replace an old, busy road level-crossing gate. For passengers, this means a permanent end to train delays caused by open road gates and it completely removes the risk of accidents at the crossing, allowing trains to speed through the area safely. Second, critical new steel bridge structures, known as girders, were successfully launched and anchored at Bridge Number 92 between Samudra Garh and Nabadwip Dham stations. This work, led by Shri Deb, Senior Divisional Engineer III of Howrah, replaces older bridge parts with rock-solid new steel to completely eliminate local speed restrictions. Passengers will no longer feel the train slow to a crawl over the bridge, and the ride will feel much smoother, quieter, and more stable without any jerky vibrations.

To make the absolute best use of the train stoppage, Howrah Division utilized a smart strategy called "Shadow Blocks" where hundreds of other technical workers jumped onto the empty tracks to complete a massive list of secondary maintenance

tasks. This clever coordination accomplished weeks of routine repairs in a few hours, preventing the need for future train cancellations. For civil engineering upgrades, high-tech track-packing machines performed approach point tamping and precision-straightened 560 meters of track and adjusted 2 switches, which are the track joints that change train directions. To protect the tracks against seasonal mudslides or shifting ground during the monsoons, 62 heavy steel pillars, totaling 333 meters of rail piling, were driven deep into the ground across Dhatrigram, Samudra Garh, Jirat, Guptaipara, Patuli, and Purbasthali. Additionally, older track joints were replaced with 2 modern Thick Web Switches at Khamargachhi and Tribeni stations to allow faster track changing, and precision track welding was carried out at Samudra Garh while material movement was handled via dip-lorries at Purbasthali.

Simultaneously, working out of the Nabadwip Dham Depot, the Traction Distribution department executed over 96 discrete maintenance tasks on the high-voltage overhead electrical lines to ensure power reliability. This extensive

tensive electrical overhaul included the Annual Overhauling of 4 track crossovers, 4 section insulators, and 27 crucial overhead line locations. Teams also checked and refitted 9 highly critical insulated glued track joints, provided 19 wire packing saddles, and completed 15 specialized technical adjustments. To round out the electrical safety upgrades, workers finished 3 specialized railway electrification annual overhauls, replaced 13 worn-out power-carrying droppers and safety discharge rods, and executed 2 precision height adjustments to the overhead wires.

Every single technical task completed during this mega block directly translates to a better, more reliable daily ride for everyday commuters. Deep earth piling and mechanical track tamping ensure that the ground underneath the train stays level and strong, which prevents the train from swaying or sinking during heavy rains. The extensive overhaul of the overhead electrical wires drastically reduces the chances of sudden power failures or snapped wires, which are the primary causes of trains getting stranded in the middle of a journey. Meanwhile, the modern Thick Web Switches ensure that trains can transition between tracks seamlessly at higher speeds, minimizing sudden braking, reducing wear and tear, and guaranteeing pinpoint punctuality for a stress-free travel experience.

Commenting on this milestone achievement, Shri Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, stated: "By safely completing these massive bridge and subway works alongside 96 electrical upgrades during a single challenging block, we have directly fortified our network to guarantee passengers on the Bandel – Katwa section a much safer, more punctual, and significantly smoother journey."

Regulation Of Trains Due To Developmental Works In Adra Division



MI News Service, Kolkata, May 18, 2026 : Cancellation of Train

● 68079/68080 Bhojuddi-Chandrapura-Bhojuddi MEMU will remain cancelled on 19.05.2026, 22.05.2026 & 24.05.2026
● 68099/68089 Adra-Midnapore-Adra MEMU will remain cancelled on 22.05.2026 & 24.05.2026
● 68077/68078 Adra-Bhaga-Adra MEMU will remain cancelled on 21.05.2026 & 24.05.2026
● 68046/68045 Asansol-Adra-Asansol MEMU will remain cancelled on 22.05.2026
● 68055/68056 Asansol-Tatanagar-Asansol MEMU, journey commencing on 20.05.2026 & 23.05.2026, will be short terminated at/short-originated from Adra
● 68056/68060 Tatanagar-Asansol-Barabhum MEMU, journey commencing on 22.05.2026, will be short terminated at/short-originated from Adra
● 63594/63593 Asansol-Purulia-Asansol MEMU, journey commencing on 20.05.2026 & 23.05.2026, will be short terminated at/short-originated from Adra
● 18035/18036 Kharagpur-Hatia-Kharagpur Express, journey commencing on 20.05.2026 & 23.05.2026, will be short terminated at/short-originated from Adra

Short Termination/Short Origination of Trains
● 68055/68056 Asansol-Tatanagar-Asansol MEMU, journey commencing on 20.05.2026 & 23.05.2026, will be short terminated at/short-originated from Adra
● 68056/68060 Tatanagar-Asansol-Barabhum MEMU, journey commencing on 22.05.2026, will be short terminated at/short-originated from Adra
● 63594/63593 Asansol-Purulia-Asansol MEMU, journey commencing on 20.05.2026 & 23.05.2026, will be short terminated at/short-originated from Adra
● 18035/18036 Kharagpur-Hatia-Kharagpur Express, journey commencing on 20.05.2026 & 23.05.2026, will be short terminated at/short-originated from Adra

Diversion of Train
● 18601 Tatanagar-Hatia Express, journey commencing on 19.05.2026, 20.05.2026 & 23.05.2026, will run on diverted route via Chandil-Gunda Bihar

Railways Upgrade Bhanjapur-Puri-Bhanjapur Special Trains Into Regular Express Services

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 18, 2026 : In response to sustained passenger demand and to provide greater travel convenience, Indian Railways has approved the regularisation of the Bhanjapur-Puri-Bhanjapur Special trains into regular Express services.

Accordingly, Train No. 08011/08012 Bhanjapur-Puri-Bhanjapur Special will now operate as Train No. 18017/18018 Bhanjapur-Puri-Bhanjapur Express. The regular services will commence from 21st May 2026 from Bhanjapur and from 22nd May 2026 from Puri.

Train No. 18017 Bhanjapur-Puri Express will depart from Bhanjapur at 11:10 PM and arrive at Puri at 5:50 AM the following day. In the return direction, Train No. 18018 Puri-Bhanjapur Express will leave Puri at 11:50 PM and reach Bhanjapur at 6:50 AM the next morning.

Since their introduction as Special services, these trains have received encouraging patronage from passengers. Considering the consistent demand and the importance of strengthening regional rail connectivity, the services have now been converted into regular Express trains to ensure greater convenience, reliability, and continuity of operations. The trains provide vital connectivity to important stations including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Baripada, Balasore, Soro, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, and Khurda Road.

Former Trinamool MLA's son arrested in Daspur

MI News Service, West Medinipur: After the change of government police are in action mode! On Sunday Police have arrested Kumaresh Bhuiyan, son of former Trinamool MLA Mamata Bhuiyan of Daspur. Kumaresh is the executive director of Daspur-1 Panchayat Samiti. Locals allege that Kumaresh had a lot of influence in the area due to being the son of a former MLA. He is accused of extortion, involvement in riots and abetting unrest.

According to sources, Kumaresh was questioned at the police station for a long time. He was later arrested at night. Kumaresh's father Ajit Bhuiyan was an influential Trinamool leader in the district. Kumaresh's mother Mamata Bhuiyan is a three-time MLA from Daspur. However, the party did not field her in the 2026 assembly elections.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ELD-125-WC-OT-08-26, Dated 13.05.2026. E-tender Notice is invited by the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Eastern Railway, Howrah, New DRM Building, near Rail Museum, Howrah-711011 against Tender No. ELD-125-WC-OT-08-26 for the following works: **Name of the work with its location:** 25 KV OHE Modification in connection with extension of FOB at Prantik station in Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. **Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 17,45,729.40. **Cost of Tender Form:** Nil. **Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited :** ₹ 34,900.00. **Completion period of the work:** 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of LOA. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 15:00 hrs. on 10.06.2026. **Opening of tender:** Tender will be opened at any time after closing of tender. Tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bid online. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

HWH-72/2026-27
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) @EasternRailway [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailwayheadquarter) @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Nos. 33_2026-27 & 34_2026-27, dated 15.05.2026. Following e-Tender is invited online by Senior Divisional Engineer/2, Eastern Railway, Howrah, New DRM Building, near Rail Museum, Howrah-711011 for Tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MS or any public sector undertaking for the following works under Sr. DEN/2/Howrah. **Sl. No. : 1. E-Tender No. 33_2026-27. Description of work:** Flash butt welding of 60 Kg/52Kg (90 UTS/72 UTS, R-260). (New/SH/SR/SRW/LWR) rail at site with contractors mobile flash butt welding plant under the jurisdiction of Senior DEN/2/Howrah. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 2,23,22,162.92. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 4,46,500.00; **Cost of Tender Form :** Nil. **Completion Period :** 12 months. **Sl. No. : 2. E-Tender No. 34_2026-27. Description of work :** (i) Howrah – Upgradation and interlocking of LC gates at gate No. 11 at Km-18 in between Bardhaman and Katwa having TVU = 20000 of Howrah Division and (ii) Howrah – Upgradation and interlocking of LC gates at gate No. 12 at Km 31/39 – 32/01 between Azimganj and Nalhati having TVU = 20000 of Howrah Division. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 50,93,762.63; **Earnest Money :** ₹ 1,01,90,00.00; **Cost of Tender Form :** Nil. **Completion Period:** 06 months. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/ bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working date. **Closing date and time of tender :** 01.06.2026 at 14.00 hrs. The detail of tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted. HWH-68/2026-27
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) @EasternRailway [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailwayheadquarter) @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : EL/HWH/25/21 (Notice)/757, dated 15.05.2026. Open e-tenders is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, New DRM Building, near Rail Museum, Howrah-711011 for the under-mentioned electrical work : **Sl. No. 1. Tender No. : EL-HWH-25-21-3617. Name of Work:** Escorting, Operation and A-Check maintenance of power Cars equipped with DG sets of make Cummins India Limited of different rakes originating from Tikiapara and Sorting Yard Depot for 2 years. **Tender Value :** ₹ 13,28,53,031.00. **Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit) :** ₹ 8,14,300.00. **Completion Period :** 24 months. **Sl. No. 2. Tender No. : EL-HWH-25-21-3618. Name of Work:** Escorting, Operation and A-Check maintenance of power Cars equipped with DG sets of make Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited (KOEL) of different rakes originating from Tikiapara and Sorting Yard Depot for 2 years. **Tender Value :** ₹ 5,53,36,075.00. **Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit) :** ₹ 4,26,700.00. **Completion Period :** 24 months. **Closing date and time :** 29.05.2026 at 15.00 hrs. for Sl. No. 1 & 2. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/ bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be on any convenient day after closing date and time of the tender. The details of tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. HWH-67/2026-27
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) @EasternRailway [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailwayheadquarter) @easternrailwayheadquarter

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. : 4634-GRC-CE-C-17-2026. For & on behalf of President of India, Chief Engineer (CON)/I/Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites e-tender for the following work : Following tender has been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in. The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of Works :** Composite work for Execution of work for Yard remodeling works at Adra-Sanka-Rukni in connection with Adra-Sanka-Rukni doubling Project under the jurisdiction of Dy CE/Con/Adra. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 82.19 Crore. **Bid Security :** ₹ 1,64,38,300/. **Completion Period :** 24 months. **Closing Date :** 12.06.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details/ description/ specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. NB : "Prospective Bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all other tenders." (PR-183)

Mahua and Kirti Azad Join the 'Cockroach Janata Party'!



MI News Service, New Delhi: The 'Cockroach Janata Party.' This new 'political party' has currently captivated everyone—from 'Gen Z' to the entire social media landscape. However, while it may appear to be a political party on the surface, that is not exactly the case. It could be described as a symbolic or satirical 'political party.' Significantly, two Trinamool MPs—Mahua Moitra and Kirti Azad—have now joined this

new 'party.' But how did the 'Cockroach Janata Party' come into existence? In fact, a controversy erupted last week centering on a remark made by Supreme Court Justice Surya Kant. During a court hearing, he stated, "A section of unemployed youth behave like cockroaches." According to him, "Unable to find a place in any profession, these young people begin working as journalists, social media

users, or Right to Information (RTI) activists, and proceed to attack everyone." This remark by the country's Supreme Court Justice sparked widespread discussion across social media platforms. A section of netizens became vocal in their condemnation. It was in the wake of this that the 'Cockroach Janata Party' emerged. However, Justice Surya Kant later clarified that his statement was being misinterpreted.

Abhijit Deepak is the founder of the 'Cockroach Janata Party.' According to sources, he was previously associated with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). A report by the national daily 'The Indian Express' states that during the 2020 Delhi Assembly elections, Abhijit handled social media campaigning for the AAP. The motto of this new political front is: Secular, Socialist, Democratic, and Lazy. They have already raised their voices in protest regarding various issues, including the NEET scandal. The 'Cockroach Janata Party' is just two days old. Yet, it is claimed that the front's membership has already reached 40,000. The 'Cockroach Janata Party' has also garnered immense popularity on social media. Sources indicate that Mahua Moitra—the Trinamool MP from Krishnanagar—and Kirti Azad—the MP from Bardhaman-Durgapur—have joined this front. This move is intended to register their protest against various recent issues, including the NEET scandal. However, neither of the two MPs has yet issued an official statement regarding this matter.

"I am telling you nicely—otherwise..." Yogi takes a tough stance on street prayers; also delivers a message to Muslims regarding population control

MI News Service, Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has once again issued a stern message regarding the offering of Namaz on public roads. He has categorically stated that blocking roads to offer Namaz will not be tolerated. The government will initially attempt to resolve the matter through persuasion; however, if this approach proves ineffective, it will be compelled to take alternative measures. Concurrently, Yogi also delivered a specific

message to the Muslim community regarding population control. On Monday, Yogi attended an event in Lucknow. While delivering a speech there, he remarked, "Roads are constructed to facilitate unhindered movement. Therefore, offering Namaz by blocking the road is unacceptable. Does anyone possess the right to disrupt traffic and create chaos on the streets? Does anyone have the right to cause inconvenience to the general public?" He further added,

"We are not prohibiting the offering of Namaz itself. If one wishes to offer Namaz, it should be done at the designated times. However, offering Namaz by blocking public roads is strictly forbidden. We are currently attempting to resolve this through dialogue and persuasion; yet, if this approach fails to yield results, we will be compelled to take other necessary measures." Meanwhile, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh also delivered a specific message to the Muslim community

regarding population control. He stated, "Offer your prayers within the confines of your homes. If you lack the space at home, then exercise population control. If you do not possess the capacity, why increase your numbers unnecessarily? If you wish to live within an organized system, begin by adhering to the rules and regulations." Furthermore, he affirmed that the government would under no circumstances tolerate the creation of any disorder on the streets.

Monsoon Reaches Andaman Early, Humid Conditions Continue Across South Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: The southwest monsoon has officially reached the Andaman and Nicobar Islands four days ahead of its normal schedule, according to the India Meteorological Department. Weather officials stated that the early arrival of the monsoon was triggered by a low-pressure system that formed over the Bay of Bengal on Saturday, accelerating the progress of seasonal winds across the region. Usually, the monsoon reaches the Andaman region around May 20 every year. However, this year it entered the area on May 16 itself, covering large parts of the south Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Sea and the Nicobar Islands

much earlier than expected. Meteorologists believe that favourable atmospheric conditions and the developing low-pressure system have helped the monsoon advance rapidly. The IMD has also indicated that the monsoon may reach Kerala earlier than usual this year. Weather experts feel that an early onset of monsoon in Kerala could eventually influence eastern India, including West Bengal. Normally, the southwest monsoon enters South Bengal during the second week of June. However, if current conditions remain favourable, Bengal may also witness an earlier arrival of monsoon this year. Heavy rainfall and thun-

derstorms have already been forecast for several districts of North Bengal, while thunderstorm activity has started increasing across South Bengal as well. Meteorologists believe these developments are creating a favourable environment for the advancement of monsoon conditions over eastern India. A strong monsoon season is considered extremely important for India's agriculture and economy. Production of paddy, pulses and other kharif crops largely depend on seasonal rainfall. Adequate rainfall also helps improve irrigation systems and increases water storage in reservoirs, which benefits hydroelectric power genera-

tion. Economists believe that a good monsoon season may also help control food inflation by improving crop output across the country. Meanwhile, residents of Kolkata and adjoining districts continue to suffer from intense humidity and uncomfortable weather conditions. Despite late-night rain accompanied by thunderstorms on Friday, most parts of the city remained hot and humid throughout Saturday. According to the IMD, scattered rain and thunderstorms are likely in several districts of South Bengal over the next few days. Although temperatures may drop slightly, humidity-related discomfort is expected to continue.

BJP Govt Holds Meeting on Edu Reforms and NEP

MI News Service, Kolkata: The newly elected BJP government in West Bengal on Monday held an important meeting at BikashBhavan with senior Education Department officials to discuss reforms and modernisation of the state's education system. The meeting was attended by Swapan Dasgupta and Shankar Ghosh. Speaking after the meeting, Shankar Ghosh said the new government is committed to improving educational standards across the state and ensuring better opportunities for students and teachers. He stated that the administration

wants cooperation from every stakeholder connected with the education sector in order to build a stronger and more modern academic framework. According to Ghosh, the government plans to take opinions and suggestions from teachers, students, educationists and administrative officials before introducing major policy decisions. He emphasized that the BJP government is determined to fulfil its responsibilities towards the education sector and work for long-term development. The meeting has gained signif-

icance because of the prolonged debate over implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) in West Bengal during the previous Trinamool Congress regime. Despite repeated discussions and political disagreements, the NEP was not introduced in the state earlier, and the former government instead proposed an alternative state education policy. Following the recent change in political leadership after the 2026 Assembly elections, the BJP government is now expected to move forward with implementation of the National Education Policy with-

out major hurdles. The administration believes that modernisation and structural reforms in education will play a crucial role in shaping the future of students in West Bengal. **आममोजोरनम सङ्केत विज्ञप्ति** एतद्वारा सलकले जानामे हाईतेचे वे, १)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, २)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ३)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ४)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ५)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ६)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ७)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ८)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ९)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, १०)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ११)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, १२)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, १३)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, १४)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, १५)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, १६)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, १७)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, १८)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, १९)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, २०)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, २१)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, २२)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, २३)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, २४)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, २५)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, २६)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, २७)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, २८)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, २९)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ३०)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ३१)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ३२)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ३३)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ३४)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ३५)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ३६)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ३७)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ३८)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ३९)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ४०)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ४१)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ४२)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ४३)आन्ध्रम मङ्गल, ४४)आन्ध्रम 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The real purpose of childhood and education is drowned out by the glitter of marks

DR. SATYAWANSAURABH

THESE days, as soon as exam results are announced, a strange competition is visible outside schools. Large billboards are displayed, colorful posters are displayed, and social media is constantly flooded with photos. Some students are listed with 99% marks, some with 98% marks, and some with 97% marks. Schools present these photos as if they have achieved some professional accomplishment. The message to viewing parents is that this is the institution where "success" is achieved. Education is gradually becoming less a medium of knowledge and more a means of publicity. This is why the question is being raised seriously: has education become less of an education and more of an advertisement?

Undoubtedly, students who work hard deserve respect. Good results are a source of pride for any student, teacher, and parent. But the problem begins when schools begin to portray only a select few as the epitome of success. The rest of the students, who worked hard to the best of their ability, struggled, and overcame circumstances to pass their exams, are left behind in this glitz and glamour. Their pictures aren't on school posters, and their efforts aren't celebrated. Gradually, they begin to feel that they're not good enough. Today, the educational environment has become highly competitive. Children are no longer studying to gain knowledge, but to achieve a high standard. Parental expectations, societal comparisons, and school promotion policies combine to create such pressure on children that they begin to measure themselves by their marks. A child scoring 95% is considered "gifted," but a child scoring 70% is considered



mediocre or weak. This mindset is against the spirit of education.

Every child is different. Some are interested in science, some in literature, some excel in sports, some in art, music, or technical skills. But the current education system has limited the definition of success to exam results. Schools also seem to be moving in the direction that bestows them with the most publicity and the highest number of admissions. As a result, children are becoming less "students" and more "result products."

Of greatest concern is the impact this type of publicity has on children's mental health. Students who score relatively low marks begin to feel inferior. Many children suffer from depression, stress, and an inferiority complex. Some become so stressed that they withdraw from family and society. Today, suicides are even reported in the country after exam results. This is not merely a personal weakness, but a result of the constant social and educational pressure placed on children.

Schools must understand that education isn't just about creating toppers. A capable teacher isn't defined by how many of their students score 95%,

but by how many they inspire confidence in. True education is one that prepares a child for life's challenges, sensitizes them, and cultivates morality and humanity. Even if a child scores average marks in exams but becomes a good person and a responsible person, that too is a testament to the success of education.

Today, many schools use exam results as a business strategy. Constant posts on social media, advertisements in newspapers, banners across the city—all of this is indicative of the commercialization of education. Parents, too, are influenced by these stellar results and choose schools. They assume that the school with the most toppers is the best. But the quality of education cannot be determined by the percentage of students alone. The true identity of a school should be determined by how average and weak students are treated, and the support and encouragement they receive.

It's also true that many schools deliberately focus on bright students to make their results appear good. Weaker students often face neglect. They are often made to feel like a burden on the school's "prestige." This situation is extremely

unfortunate. Equal opportunity and equal respect are the most essential elements of education. If schools themselves begin to discriminate between children, how will sensitivity develop in society? The role of parents is also crucial here. Many parents begin to compare their children with others. Statements like, "Look, Sharma ji's son scored 98%," shatter children's self-confidence. Every child learns at their own pace and ability. The need is to understand and encourage them, not to constantly prove them inferior to others. Children need to feel that they are valued not just because of their marks, but because their personality and efforts are also important. We also need to understand that success in life isn't just about exam results. History is replete with examples of average or mediocre students who went on to become great scientists, writers, artists, entrepreneurs, and leaders. Many of the world's most successful people weren't "toppers" in the traditional education system. Their confidence, creativity, and struggle were their true strengths. Therefore, judging children solely on percentages limits their future.

If schools truly want to inspire children, instead of just posting pictures of toppers, they should recognize every student who has worked hard. Someone who improved from the previous year, someone who continued studying under difficult circumstances, someone who passed the exam despite financial difficulties—these achievements are equally important. The purpose of education should be cooperation rather than competition.

Today, there's a need to rehumanize education. Children should be taught that their worth isn't determined solely by their report

cards. Schools should foster a culture where every child feels respected and confident. Teachers should foster a curiosity for learning, not a mere pursuit of marks. Education will be meaningful when it transforms children into better people, not just a higher percentage.

The government and education departments should also seriously consider this issue. There should be guidelines for excessive display of children's photos and grades for school promotions. Educational institutions must understand that children are not a medium for advertising. Their emotions, self-esteem, and mental health are more important than any publicity.

Society also needs to change its mindset. If we only honor those with high scores, other children will begin to see themselves as failures. We must recognize that every child is unique and every talent is important. Some children will become doctors, some artists, some farmers, some soldiers, some teachers—every role is essential to society. The goal of education should not be to mold everyone into a single mold, but to develop their individual potential. Today, when education is becoming a mere "advertisement," sensitivity is what's most needed. Schools should foster children's self-confidence, not turn them into machines for comparison and performance. Children are the future, not percentages. They should be valued not just for their marks, but for their efforts, struggles, and dreams. If education is reduced to posters and percentages, we may gain good grades but lose good people. Therefore, the need of the hour is to let education become education again, not advertising.

(Dr. SatyawanSaurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a

Tata Power and Druk Green Power Corporation Sign MoU to Build Skill Development Ecosystem

MUMBAI / THIMPHU : Tata Power, one of India's largest integrated power utilities, and Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC), the sole power generation utility of Bhutan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Thimphu, Bhutan, to establish a comprehensive skill development ecosystem.

The MoU lays the foundation for a structured training framework aimed at building a future-ready workforce to address both immediate and long-term requirements under the ongoing partnership between Tata Power and DGPC to jointly develop clean energy projects.

The MoU signing ceremony, was graced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan, LyonchhenTsheringTobgay. The MoU was formally signed by DrPraveerSinha, CEO & Managing Director, Tata Power, and DashedhewangRinzin, Managing Director, DGPC. Ms Anjali Pandey, President-Generation, Tata Power, along with other senior representatives from Tata Power, DGPC, and relevant institutions, were also present at the ceremony.

Training programmes will be delivered through the Tata Power Skill Development Institute (TPSDI), leveraging its expertise in power sector skilling.

DrPraveerSinha, CEO & Managing Director, Tata Power, said "This partnership with DGPC underscores our collective vision of creating a future-ready talent ecosystem for Bhutan's growing clean energy sector. Leveraging its strong credentials in power sector training, Tata Power Skill Development Institute (TPSDI) will help nurture industry-ready professionals with comprehensive expertise in safe operations, emerging technologies, and operations & maintenance."

Tata Power will provide technical expertise, training infrastructure, courseware,



and accreditation support through TPSDI for the effective implementation of the programmes. DGPC will facilitate the mobilisation and deployment of trainees, ensuring seamless execution under the MoU and subsequent definitive agreements.

DGPC will also be responsible for securing all necessary approvals from the Government of Bhutan and relevant Bhutanese authorities, while Tata Power will obtain the requisite approvals from the Government of India.

DashedhewangRinzin, Managing Director, DGPC, said, "This MoU is a practical step towards strengthening local capabilities required under the ongoing partnership to develop 5,000 MW of clean energy capacity. DGPC will work with relevant Bhutanese authorities and stakeholders to identify training needs, mobilise trainees where appropriate, and ensure that the programme supports national priorities and complements the Royal Government of Bhutan's broader workforce development efforts."

The proposed skill development initiatives under this MoU will be implemented in a phased manner:

Phase 1: Focus on immediate deployment of safety training to ensure workforce readiness prior to site entry, including mandatory safety induction programmes for project workers.

Phase 2: Expansion into

technical skill development covering construction, material handling, and earth-moving equipment operations, tailored to project construction requirements.

Phase 3: Development of specialised capabilities for the long-term operation and maintenance of clean energy assets.

Tata Power Skill Development Institute (TPSDI) was established to bridge the skill gap in the power sector by delivering industry-relevant, modular training and certification programmes. TPSDI is accredited by the National Safety Council of India (NSC) to conduct safety training, administer assessments, and issue joint certifications. As an approved training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and a Dual Awarding Body recognised by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), TPSDI operates a robust training network across India, offering hands-on training across the power value chain, including thermal, hydel, and renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, and green hydrogen.

This MoU reflects a collaborative and practical approach to developing the skills required for Bhutan's clean energy growth, with DGPC working alongside relevant Bhutanese authorities and Tata Power providing technical training support.

The timeless saga of the 'BhishmaPitamah' of Indian industry

VARUN KUMAR WRITERS AND POETS

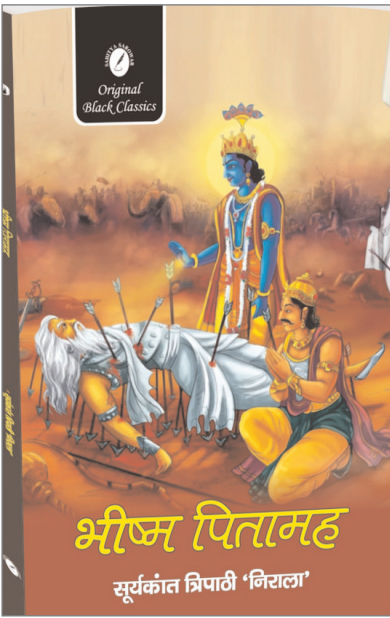
IN India's industrial history, certain names become symbols not just of individuals but of changing eras. JamsetjiNusserwanji Tata is one such figure, who lit the torch of modern industrial nationalism during the dark days of colonial India. Today, as the country moves towards economic self-reliance through campaigns like "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India," it is important to remember that the true foundations of this idea were laid by Jamsetji Tata a century ago.

He was not just an industrialist; he was a nation-builder, a visionary thinker, a social reformer, and the creator of an industrial culture based on human values. He instilled confidence in Indian society that Indians too could lead the world in modern science, technology, and the operation of large industries. JamsetjiNusserwanji Tata was born on March 3, 1839, in Navsari, into a Parsi family. His father, Nusserwanji Tata, was the first to leave his family's priestly tradition and enter business. This courage and innovative vision later became the foundation of Jamsetji's personality. At a young age, he came to Mumbai with his father, where he received his education at the prestigious Elphinstone College. Western education and a global outlook fostered within him a unique blend of modernity and patriotism.

He founded his own trading firm with a capital of just ₹21,000 in 1868. This small step later became the foundation of India's largest industrial conglomerate.

His first major experiment was in the textile industry. He purchased a defunct oil mill and converted it into a textile mill, naming it the Alexandra Mill. This experiment proved his management skills and industrial foresight. Subsequently, he made a decision that changed the course of Indian industry—he chose Nagpur over Mumbai for the textile mill. This was a bold decision at the time. Nagpur, with its proximity to cotton-producing regions, availability of coal and water, and railway connectivity, made it an ideal location. The Empress Mill was established on January 1, 1877. It was not just a textile mill, but a declaration of Indian industrial self-confidence. Modern machinery and innovative technologies were used here. Jamsetji proved that Indian industry could challenge Europe in quality and efficiency.

JamsetjiNusserwanji Tata had four



great dreams to make India an industrial and scientific superpower.

Establishment of steel industry, world-class scientific research institute, hydroelectric project, a grand international hotel. Most of these dreams were fulfilled after his death, but his vision was so clear that the coming generations made them a reality.

He considered steel production essential to India's industrial independence. After years of surveys, the village of Sakchi in Jharkhand was chosen for the steel plant. Tata Steel was established in 1907. This was one of the most decisive events in India's industrial history. This Sakchi town later became Jamshedpur. Jamsetji didn't just build a factory; he envisioned an ideal industrial city. Wide roads, trees, gardens, playgrounds, and places of worship for all religions—this vision surpassed even the European industrial cities of the time.

Jamsetji believed that no nation could become great without science and research. He donated a large portion of his personal wealth to scientific education. The Indian Institute of Science was established in 1909. Today, this institute is considered the hub of India's scientific development and has produced talent for everything from ISRO to the nuclear program. Along with industrial development, Jamsetji's thinking also centered on environmental balance. He envisioned hydroelectric projects that would provide clean and affordable energy to

industries.

Later, Tata Power realised this dream and gave new impetus to the industrial development of Mumbai.

The TajMahal Palace Hotel was inaugurated in 1903. It was India's first world-class luxury hotel. It is said that after being denied entry into a European hotel due to racial discrimination, Jamsetji decided to build a hotel that would symbolize Indian pride. The Taj Hotel was equipped with modern amenities—electricity, elevators, exotic fans, and world-class hospitality. Even today, the hotel is considered a symbol of India's prestige and self-respect.

JamsetjiNusserwanji Tata's greatness lay not only in his establishment of industries but also in his sensitivity towards workers. He implemented facilities for employees at a time when there was no concept of workers' rights in most countries of the world. Clean and safe workplaces, provident funds.

There are accident compensation and pension schemes.

What is today called Corporate Social Responsibility was given a practical form by Jamsetji in the 19th century itself. JamsetjiNusserwanji Tata believed that wealth acquired through industry ultimately belonged to society. He made vast donations to education, health, and research. The J.N. Tata Endowment, established in 1892, provided thousands of Indian students with the opportunity to pursue higher education abroad. His legacy of philanthropy was further expanded through the Tata Trusts.

He died on May 19, 1904, in Bad Nauheim, Germany. But his vision, values, and dream of nation-building endure. Today, the Tata Group is one of the world's most prestigious industrial conglomerates. From salt to software, steel to aviation and automobiles, the Tata Group symbolizes India's industrial might. Today, as India moves towards self-reliance, technological innovation and global leadership, the ideology of JamsetjiNusserwanji Tata becomes more relevant than ever.

He taught that true nationalism is not limited to political independence; it is built on economic strength, scientific consciousness, dignity of workers, and social responsibility. He was undoubtedly the 'BhishmaPitamah' of modern industrial India—a visionary who transformed Indian industry not just into a business but into a vehicle for national service. The entire nation pays humble tribute to this great personality.

Army officer reviews training preparedness, development works at Pachmarhicentre

LUCKNOW : Lt Gen Harbinder Singh Vandra, General Officer Commanding, Madhya Bharat Area, under the Central Command of the Indian Army, reviewed the training infrastructure and development works at the Army Education Corps (AEC) Centre and School in Pachmarhi, an official said on Monday.

During the visit, Lt Gen Harbinder Singh Vandra was briefed on key projects aimed at enhancing training standards and improving station facilities, the official added.

In a post on X, the Central Command said, "#GOC #MadhyaBharatArea visited #AEC Training College & Centre, #Pachmarhi, to review training infrastructure, administrative readiness and ongoing development works within the military station."

"The #GOC was briefed on key projects aimed at enhancing training standards and station facilities," it added.

"He also visited #MilitaryHospital #Pachmarhi and appreciated the quality #healthcare services being extended to patients. The visit also featured an impressive band display at the Joint Services Training Institute (#MilitaryMusic), reflecting discipline, precision and professional excellence," the post said.

Earlier, Central Command General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen AnindyaSengupta visited 510 Army Base Workshop and Golden Key Division to review combat readiness, operational preparedness and ongoing technology absorption initiatives, the official said.

In another post on X, the Central Command said, "Lt Gen AnindyaSengupta, GOC-



Earlier, Central Command General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen AnindyaSengupta visited 510 Army Base Workshop and Golden Key Division to review combat readiness, operational preparedness and ongoing technology absorption initiatives, the official said.

in-C #SuryaCommand, visited 510 Army Base Workshop and #GoldenKeyDivision to review combat readiness, operational preparedness and ongoing #TechnologyAbsorption initiatives."

"At 510 Army Base Workshop, the #ArmyCdr was briefed on repair, overhaul and maintenance capabilities for new-generation equipment and critical weapon systems," it added.

During the visit, Lt Gen AnindyaSengupta appreciated the unit's efforts in developing strong in-house expertise, reducing dependence on external agencies and ensuring faster equipment availability for field formations.

At the Golden Key Division, he reviewed operational preparedness with a focus on the practical use of technology in training, operations and capability development.

He commended the formation for its professionalism, dedication and effective adoption of modern systems to enhance mission readiness. "The visits highlighted the #IndianArmy's continued focus on self-reliance, quicker equipment turnaround, indigenous defence support and future-ready capability in line with #MakeInIndia and #AatmanirbharBharat," the post on X added.

PM Modi calls for peaceful resolution of West Asia crisis and Ukraine conflict

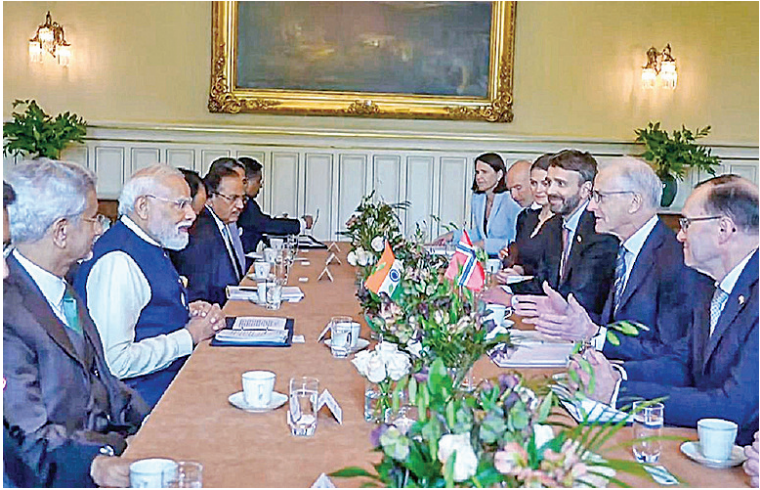
MI News Service, Oslo: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called for a resolution of the West Asia crisis and the Ukraine conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, asserting that military action alone cannot achieve lasting peace.

Modi made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store that focused on boosting the overall trajectory of bilateral relations.

"India and Norway, both, believe in a rules-based order, dialogue, and diplomacy. We agree that no issue can be resolved through military conflict alone," Modi said in his televised statement to the media.

"Be it Ukraine or West Asia, we will continue to support every effort for the early end of the conflict and for peace," he said.

Modi met Store hours after he



landed in Oslo from Sweden as part of his four-nation European tour.

In his remarks, the prime minister also underlined the need for reform of the global institutions.

"We also agree on this point that reforming global institutions is essential for addressing the growing global challenges."

"And eradicating terrorism in every form from its roots is our

shared commitment," he noted.

Prime Minister Modi also complimented Norway for its support to India following last year's Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

"I was supposed to visit Norway last year, but had to postpone that trip due to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. During that difficult time, Norway stood firmly with India against terrorism, demonstrating true friendship," he said. "Today, as I visit Norway, I express my heartfelt gratitude for that solidarity," he said.

Prime Minister Modi also hailed Norway's decision to join the India-led Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

"As two major maritime nations, we will work together to strengthen cooperation in the marine economy, maritime security, and capacity building," he said.

IED blast in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, three killed



MI News Service, Islamabad: At least three people, including prominent tribal elder and Ahmadzai Wazir tribe chief Malik Tariq Wazir, were killed and four others injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in the Rustam Bazaar area of Wana in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday, according to officials and local media reports.

District Police Officer (DPO) Mohammad Tahir Shah Wazir said that the explosion took place near Gulshan Plaza when a vehicle carrying Tariq was passing through the mar-

ket. According to officials, three people were killed and four others were injured in the blast.

The DPO said unidentified assailants had allegedly planted explosive material near Gulshan Plaza during the night, which exploded in the morning. Following the incident, police personnel cordoned off the area and began a search operation to find the perpetrators behind the attack.

Residents and rescue workers took the bodies of the deceased and injured people to the hospital for treatment and legal for-

malities.

It is worth to mention that On May 16, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) expressed concern over the sharp deterioration in security in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where residents were increasingly caught between enforced disappearances, targeted killings and militant attacks.

It stated that the alleged kidnapping of the vice-chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and two other Gwadar University employees in Mastung, while travelling from Gwadar to Quetta, sparks questions about the state's ability to secure major highways and protect residents.

In a statement posted on X, HRCP stated, "HRCP is deeply alarmed by the sharp deterioration in security across Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where citizens are increasingly caught between enforced disappearances, targeted killings, and militant attacks."

Indian student killed in road accident in US

MI News Service, Chicago (United States): A 25-year-old Indian student lost her life while six others were injured in a tragic road accident near Chicago in the United States, officials confirmed on Monday (Indian time).



The fatal accident occurred late on Saturday night (US time) along Interstate 65 near Crown Point in Lake County, Indiana, according to the police.

According to local media reports, the deceased student has been identified as Navya Gadusu. The Lake County Coroner's Office confirmed that she was pronounced dead at 12:16 a.m. on Sunday. Officials stated that Gadusu died due to blunt force traumatic injuries suffered in the crash.

Reacting to the incident, the Indian Consulate General in Chicago expressed grief over the student's death and said it is in constant touch with the bereaved family.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic passing away of Indian student Navya Gadusu in a road accident near Chicago. Our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends during this difficult time. The Consulate is in touch with the family of the deceased. We are also in touch with friends and members of community who are assisting those injured in the accident," the Consulate said in a post on X.

According to the Indiana State Police, the accident took place at approximately 11:15 p.m.

on Saturday. Investigators said a red minivan carrying seven adults was travelling at a very slow speed behind another vehicle that was reportedly facing mechanical issues.

Police said the driver of another car approaching from behind failed to realise how slowly the minivan was moving and attempted to swerve left in an effort to avoid a collision.

However, the vehicle struck the left side of the minivan with force, causing the van to veer off the roadway and plunge into a ditch, officials added.

Authorities clarified that the vehicle suffering from mechanical trouble, which the minivan had been following, was not involved in the collision.

Further details released during the investigation revealed that the minivan was fitted with only two front seats.

Police said the remaining five passengers were seated on boxes of mangoes without wearing seat belts at the time of the accident.

The circumstances surrounding the crash are currently under investigation by the Indiana State Police.

A strong quake in South China, two killed

MI News Service, Beijing: A 5.2 magnitude earthquake struck south China's Guangxi region early Monday, killing two people, toppling buildings and triggering the evacuations of thousands, state media reported.

Four others were also injured, while more than 7,000 residents were evacuated from Liuzhou city.

The search for several missing residents wrapped up around midday Monday, after the last trapped person, a 91-year-old man, was found alive in good condition, authorities said.

Images aired by state broadcaster showed excavators clearing debris. At least 13 buildings collapsed, while landslides triggered by the quake blocked roads to the area, according to state media. Train services around Liuzhou were cancelled or delayed.



Earthquakes occasionally strike south China, with more intense ones usually occurring toward the mountainous west or the east, toward Taiwan. The most devastating recent earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 occurred in the south-western Sichuan province in 2008, leaving more than 87,000 dead or missing.

Terrible mid-air collision! Two US fighter jets crashed to the ground

MI News Service, Washington: Horrific accident during an air show. Two US fighter jets collided in mid-air. The accident occurred on Sunday at Mountain Home Air Force Base in the American state of Idaho. After the accident, the two planes hit the ground with a huge explosion. Although there were no fatalities in the accident. The four pilots of the two planes were able to get out of the plane at the last moment.

It is known that after almost 8 years, the 'Gun-fighter Skies Air Show' was organized in America with the fighter jets of the Air Force. Along with other aircraft, there was the state-of-the-art American F/A-18 aircraft. The aircraft were performing one after another in the sky in the presence of a large number of spectators. Around noon, the modern version of the



F/A-18 aircraft, the EA-18G, started performing in the sky. At one point, two planes of this series were fighting in the sky, side by side. At that time, the planes suddenly collided head-on. Then, losing control, the two planes started falling rapidly. After hitting the ground, a huge explosion occurred in the plane. The entire sky was covered in black smoke. However, at the last moment, four pilots

of both planes were able to get out of the plane.

The US military said the two planes crashed two miles from the air base. Rescue teams arrived at the scene almost immediately after the accident. The fire was extinguished. The cause of the accident is being investigated. No details were given about the pilots' condition. The air show was closed after the accident.

China agrees to boost trade for US Agri products following Trump-Xi summit

MI News Service, Washington: China has agreed to ramp up trade for US agricultural products such as beef and poultry, buying at an annualized rate of \$17 billion per year for 2026 and at that level for 2027 and 2028, the White House announced Sunday, two days after President Donald Trump returned from a high-stakes summit in Beijing where he sought to ease the impact on American farmers from the trade war he launched last year.

China would restore market access for US beef and resume imports of poultry from US states determined by the US Department of Agriculture to be free of the bird flu, the White House said. The deals are on top of China's soybean purchase commitments last year.

The agreements offer some hope to American farmers harmed by the trade war as they saw a major export market for soybeans and other products dry up. Farmers also are feeling new pressure from Trump administration policies — the war that the US and Israel launched against Iran has curtailed shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital trade corridor that has restricted global fertilizer supplies and sent those prices soaring. There was no immediate confirmation of the terms from Beijing.

China's Ministry of Commerce on Saturday said the two sides would "resolve or make substantial progress toward resolving certain non-tariff barriers and market access issues" regarding agricultural goods.



The US would "actively work" to address China's concerns regarding detention of its dairy products, seafood, the export of potted bonsai, and the recognition of Shandong province as a bird-flu-free zone, while the Chinese side will "likewise actively work" to address US concerns regarding the registration of beef processing facilities and the export of poultry meat from certain states to China, a ministry spokesperson said.

The two sides also agreed to expand trade, including that of farm goods, through measures such as reciprocal tariff reductions on "a specific range of products," though the spokesperson did not specify the products.

China, recognizing the link between food security and national security, has diversified its sources of imported soybeans, beef and other farm goods, turning increasingly to Brazil, Argentina and other countries over the US.

Data from the US Department of Agriculture show China's imports of US agricultural goods peaked in 2022 with \$38 billion but fell to \$8 billion in 2025. These figures include nearly \$18 billion in soybean purchases

in 2022 and \$3 billion in 2025.

It's not immediately clear how much more China would buy from American soybean farmers, who were hit especially hard in the trade war. China, traditionally the largest foreign buyer of American soybeans, stopped purchasing them altogether last year after Trump hiked tariffs on Chinese goods.

The latest agreement builds on a trade truce Trump reached with Chinese President Xi Jinping in October in which China agreed to resume buying US soybeans. The White House said then that China committed to buying 12 million metric tons in the current marketing year and 25 million metric tons for each of the next three years. It is learnt that the US export of poultry meats and products to China was \$286 million in 2025, down from more than \$1 billion in 2022.

During the summit last week, Trump and Xi discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation, including expanding market access for American businesses in China and increasing Chinese investment into US industries, the White House had said.

Iran officially announces new body to manage the Strait of Hormuz

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran's top security body announced on Monday the formation of a new body to manage the Strait of Hormuz, which Tehran has effectively closed and wants to charge ships to traverse.

On its official X account, the Supreme National Security Council shared a post for the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) saying it would provide "real time updates on the #Hormuz_Strait operations and latest developments." The account of the Revolutionary Guards navy shared the same post. Though it was

not immediately clear what the new body would do. Iran has largely blocked shipping through the vital strait since the outbreak of war with the United States and Israel on February 28. A fragile ceasefire has been in place since April 8.

Iran's grip over the waterway has rattled global markets and given Tehran significant leverage, while the United States has imposed its own naval blockade on Iranian ports.

In peacetime, the route accounts for roughly a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments,

along with other key commodities including fertiliser.

Since the war began Iran has repeatedly said that maritime traffic through the strait would "not return to its pre-war status" and last month it said it had received the first revenue from tolls on the waterway.

On Saturday (May 16, 2026), Ebrahim Azizi, head of the Iranian parliament's national security commission, said Iran "has prepared a professional mechanism to manage traffic" through the strait, adding that it will be "unveiled soon".

Hantavirus-Stricken cruise ship arrive in Rotterdam

MI News Service, Rotterdam (Netherlands): The cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak has docked at the Dutch port of Rotterdam for disinfection, wrapping up a troubled journey that put international health authorities on alert.

The MV Hondius was carrying 25 crew members and two medical personnel as it reached Rotterdam on Monday morning, after all the passengers disembarked elsewhere.

Occupants wearing masks on the deck as the boat was escorted through the port by a tug boat and a Dutch police boat. Authorities say that the crew will enter immediate quarantine.

During the outbreak, three passengers who had been aboard the ship died, including a Dutch couple who health officials believe were the first exposed to the virus while visiting South America.

It is worth to note that the MV Hondius has spent the past six days sailing



from the Canary Islands, where the remaining passengers were escorted off the vessel by personnel in full-body protective gear and boarded flights to more than 20 countries to enter quarantine.

The outbreak on the ship has reached at least 11 cases, nine of which have been confirmed. Three passengers have died, including a Dutch couple who health officials believe were the first exposed to the virus while visiting South America.

The Public Health Agency of Canada said one of the four Canadians in isolation after leaving the ship had tested positive on

living in the country on a series of flights over the previous two weeks.

Eighteen Americans are currently under observation at specialized healthcare facilities in the United States designed to treat people with dangerous infectious diseases.

After everyone on board has disembarked, the ship will be decontaminated based on Dutch public health guidelines. "Personal protective measures are being taken to ensure that the cleaners do not need to quarantine after the cleaning," the health ministry said in a letter to the Dutch parliament last week.

Public health officials will inspect the vessel before it is allowed to sail again. The hantavirus outbreak aboard the MV Hondius is the first known case on a cruise ship.

The Dutch company that owns the cruise ship said it doesn't foresee any changes to its operations. It has an Arctic cruise setting sail from Keflavik, Iceland, on May 29.

Malaysia ends Indonesia migrant boat search, Sixteen bodies recovered

MI News Service, Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia said on Monday (May 18, 2026) it had ended a search for passengers of a migrant boat from Indonesia that sank off the country's western coast last week after the bodies of all 16 missing persons were recovered. The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) in Perak state said 23 people were rescued after the vessel sank off Pangkor island west of peninsular Malaysia on May 11.

Perak MMEA director Mohamad Shukri Khotob told the media that the search was called off on Saturday (May 16). "It's the standard (procedure) for us to carry out search and rescue mission for six days. We ended the search at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday after there were no new discoveries in the area," Mr. Mohamad Shukri said by telephone on Monday.

He said all 23 survivors were Indonesian but he was unsure if the 16 dead were all their compatriots. The migrants were trying to reach several destinations in Malaysia, including Penang, Terengganu, Selangor and Kuala Lumpur for work.

Mr. Mohamad Shukri said initial information from survivors that there were 37 people on board was inaccurate, as those rescued and the body count totalled 39. Aside from the MMEA, the search mission also involved the Royal Malaysian Navy, the Marine Police Force and local fisherfolk.



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Travis Head walks off the field after his dismissal during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match between Chennai Super Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Monday.

IPL 2026: 'Playing for CSK feels very special,' says Spencer Johnson

CHENNAI : Spencer Johnson has described his stint with Chennai Super Kings (CSK) as one of the most special experiences of his franchise cricket career, saying the atmosphere around the team, the passionate support from fans, and the togetherness within the dressing room make CSK stand out from other teams around the world.

The Australian left-arm pacer, who joined the CSK setup as a replacement for Nathan Ellis for IPL 2026, admitted that franchise cricket can often feel temporary because players move across leagues and teams regularly. However, Johnson said the environment created at CSK under head coach Stephen Fleming has made him feel

genuinely connected to the group. "Well, you can hear the crowd now. It's unbelievable. I think it can be a little bit transactional playing for so many different teams, but coming here, Fleming has been awesome. The whole group sticks together, so it's very special," Johnson told broadcasters ahead of the SRH clash. The Australian pacer recently returned to action after recovering physically from his previous outing and said he was pleased with the way his body responded to the demands of competitive cricket. "Yes, it recovered all well, thank you. It was nice to get that extra intensity the other night. It's a little bit different from bowling in the nets, but no, I recovered



well," Johnson said.

Johnson further revealed that although he was initially unsure about getting opportunities in the playing XI, he always stayed mentally prepared for his chance. "I probably wasn't expecting to play, but I'm always making sure I am ready to play. And we saw how good Overton was, and I was kind of just trying to follow what he did and how he did it," he explained.

"Once I got the all clear in Australia to come over here, the handbrake was off, and I've been trying to bowl as fast as I can," Johnson added.

Meanwhile, Johnson has played only one match in IPL 2026, where he took one wicket and gave away 39 runs in four overs.

REAL MADRID CONFIRM CAPTAIN DANI CARVAJAL'S EXIT AFTER 23-YEAR ASSOCIATION

MADRID : Real Madrid have officially announced that club captain Dani Carvajal will leave the Spanish giants at the end of the current season, bringing an end to a remarkable 23-year association with the club.

The La Liga club confirmed the decision in an official statement on Monday and paid tribute to one of the most decorated players in its history.

Carvajal, who joined Real Madrid's academy in 2002 and became a first-team regular in 2013, played a major role during one of the most successful periods in the club's modern history. During his time with the senior side, the Spanish right-back won 27 trophies, including six UEFA Champions League titles, four La Liga crowns, and two Copa del Rey trophies.

The 33-year-old is also among only five players in football history to win six European Cups.

However, persistent injury problems during the ongoing campaign limited his impact this season. Carvajal managed only 21 appearances across all competitions, and both the player and the club have now decided to move in different directions after the season concludes.

In total, Carvajal made 450 appearances for Real Madrid and scored 14 goals. Individually, he enjoyed a memorable 2024 season after being named in the FIFPro World XI and winning The Best FIFA Men's World XI honour. He was also adjudged the best player in the 2024 Champions League final after scoring in the title clash.

At the international level, Carvajal represented Spain in 51 matches and won the UEFA Euro 2024 title along with the UEFA Nations League in 2023.

Real Madrid president Florentino Pérez described Carvajal as 'a legend and a symbol of Real Madrid and its academy', adding that the defender had always represented the values of the club.



Delhi HC declines immediate relief to Vinesh Phogat over Asian Games trials

NEW DELHI : The Delhi High Court on Monday declined to grant immediate relief to three-time Olympian wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who had sought permission to participate in the Asian Games selection trials scheduled for May 30-31.

Phogat has approached the Delhi High Court, challenging her exclusion from the trials by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and seeking directions to allow her participation in the selection trials pending adjudication of her plea against the federation's new eligibility criteria.

Senior advocate Rajsheshkar Rao, appearing for Phogat, argued before a single-judge Bench of Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav that "there was something more than meets the eye" in the matter and urged the Delhi High Court to permit the wrestler to participate in the trials subject to the outcome of the case.

However, Justice Rao declined to pass any interim order without hearing the WFI's stand, observing that no immediate relief could be granted at this stage.

"Unnecessarily, there is no point in allowing you to participate and then telling you that it was a nullity," the judge orally remarked.

The Delhi High Court said it



would hear the matter after the summer vacation and listed the case for further hearing on July 6. It also permitted Phogat to file a comprehensive reply to the show-cause notice issued to her by the WFI and directed the federation to take the disciplinary proceedings to their logical conclusion by the next date of hearing.

It further said that any decision taken by the WFI should be placed on record before the Delhi High Court.

The WFI declared Phogat ineligible to participate in any sanctioned competitions until June 26, citing "grave acts of indiscipline" and violations of anti-doping and

international wrestling regulations.

In a 15-page show-cause notice issued earlier this month, the WFI directed the three-time Olympian to explain why disciplinary action should not be taken against her, highlighting incidents ranging from the Paris 2024 Games to recent anti-doping failures. Recently, the WFI had also introduced revised eligibility criteria for participation in the Asian Games selection trials, restricting entry to medal winners from specified national-level tournaments held during 2025 and 2026. The move effectively excluded Phogat, who has not competed in professional events since the Paris Olympics 2024.

'Not a public authority': BCCI not covered under RTI Act, rules CIC

NEW DELHI : The Central Information Commission (CIC) has held that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is not a "public authority" under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, observing that the cricket body is neither established by law nor substantially financed or controlled by the government.

Information Commissioner P.R. Ramesh, while dismissing a second appeal filed by Geeta Rani seeking information regarding the BCCI's authority to represent India in international cricket and select players for the national team, ruled that the statutory requirements under Section 2(h) of the RTI Act were not satisfied in the case of the BCCI.

"The BCCI cannot be classified as a 'Public Authority' with

in the meaning of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act and the provisions of the Act are therefore inapplicable to it in the facts and circumstances of the present case," the CIC said in its order passed on Monday.

The apex information body was hearing an appeal arising from an RTI application filed in 2017 before the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports seeking details regarding the provisions under which the BCCI represents India, the benefits granted to it by the government, and the extent of governmental control over the cricket body.

The Centre had replied that the information sought was not available with it and stated that the RTI application could not be transferred to the BCCI since it had not been declared a public authority under the RTI Act.

In the proceedings before the CIC, the BCCI argued that it is a private autonomous society registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act and does not satisfy the tests of ownership, control, or substantial financing required under Section 2(h) of the RTI Act.

In its order, the CIC observed that BCCI was not created by the Constitution, the Parliament, a state legislature or any government notification, but was merely a society registered under the law.

"Registration is only a mechanism for granting legal recognition to an entity formed by private individuals and does not amount to the body being brought into existence by the statute itself," it ruled.

It further held that there was no material on record to show

IPL 2026: When and where to watch RR vs LSG, know all details

JAIPUR : Rajasthan Royals will take on Lucknow Super Giants at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Tuesday in a high-stakes encounter that could significantly influence the playoff picture as the league stage nears its conclusion. With the competition intensifying and every result carrying added weight, both sides enter the fixture with sharply contrasting momentum and objectives.

Lucknow enter the game on the back of a commanding win over Chennai Super Kings, a performance that underlined their growing rhythm at a crucial stage of the season. Their most recent outing was headlined by a dominant all-round display, beginning with Akash Singh's incisive spell of 3/26 that dismantled CSK's top order.

The chase was then taken over by Mitchell Marsh, whose explosive 38-ball 90 ensured a comfortable seven-wicket victory. That result has boosted Lucknow's confidence as they aim to close out the season strongly and strengthen their position in the standings. Rajasthan Royals, meanwhile, return home after a tough outing in Delhi where they were edged out in a high-scoring thriller on Sunday. The defeat marked their third consecutive loss, adding pressure on the side as they look to stay in contention and avoid slipping further down the table.

The Royals will now be desperate to regroup quickly on home turf and halt their losing streak at a decisive



point in the season.

For Lucknow, led by Rishabh Pant, the fixture represents an opportunity to build on their recent surge and secure revenge for an earlier defeat against Rajasthan this season. A victory would not only extend their momentum but also improve their standing as LSG, currently placed at the bottom of the points table, and push towards a better finish in the standings.

When: Tuesday, May 19, 7:30 PM IST

Where: Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur

Where to Watch: The RR vs LSG match will be broadcast on Star Sports channels, with JioHotstar live-streaming the game.

Rajasthan Royals: Riyan Parag (c), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi,

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ravindra Jadeja, Donovan Ferreira, Brijesh Sharma, Jofra Archer, Shimron Hetmyer, Shubham Dubey, Dasun Shanaka, Nandre Burger, Ravi Bishnoi, Sandeep Sharma, Lhuan-Dre Pretorius, Ravi Singh, Aman Rao Perala, Adam Milne, Kuldeep Sen, and Kwen Maphaka.

Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant (c & wk), Aiden Markram, Himmat Singh, Matthew Breetzke, Mukul Choudhary, Akshat Raghuvanshi, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Marsh, Abdul Samad, Shahbaz Ahmadi, Arshin Kulkarni, Wanindu Hasaranga, Ayush Badoni, Mohammad Shami, Avesh Khan, M. Siddharth, Digvesh Singh, Akash Singh, Prince Yadav, Arjun Tendulkar, Anrich Nortje, Naman Tiwari, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan.

Svitolina leads WTA rankings surge after Italian Open triumph

NEW DELHI : Elina Svitolina capped a remarkable fortnight for Ukrainian tennis by capturing the Italian Open title in Rome, completing a sweep of the 2026 clay-court WTA 1000 events for her country after Marta Kostyuk lifted the Madrid crown earlier this month.

The 31-year-old Svitolina returned to the top tier of women's tennis with her third career title in Rome, having previously won the tournament in 2017 and 2018. It marked her 20th singles trophy overall and her biggest achievement since returning to the tour following maternity leave in 2023.

Her path to the title was especially impressive. Svitolina defeated three of the world's top four players in consecutive matches, overcoming Elena Rybakina in the quarterfinals, Iga Swiatek in the semifinals, and Coco Gauff in the championship match. The run pushed her three places up the rankings to World No. 7.

A major talking point from the latest rankings update was the historic rise of Sorana Cirstea, who became the oldest player in WTA history to break into the Top 20 for the first time following her standout campaign in Rome. The 36-year-old Romanian climbed nine places to World No. 18 after a whirlwind run to the semi-finals at the Italian Open, where she stunned reigning World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the third round for her first victory over a top-ranked player in her career.

Cirstea's rise marked a remarkable turnaround in what she has already confirmed will be the final season of her career. After struggling with plantar fasciitis surgery that dropped her ranking to No. 169 last year, she has compiled an impressive 25-8 record in 2026 and also claimed a title on home soil in Cluj-Napoca earlier this season.

Karolina Muchova also re-entered the Top 10 following a strong opening half of the year. The Czech star climbed to No. 10 after title-winning success in Doha, a runner-up finish in

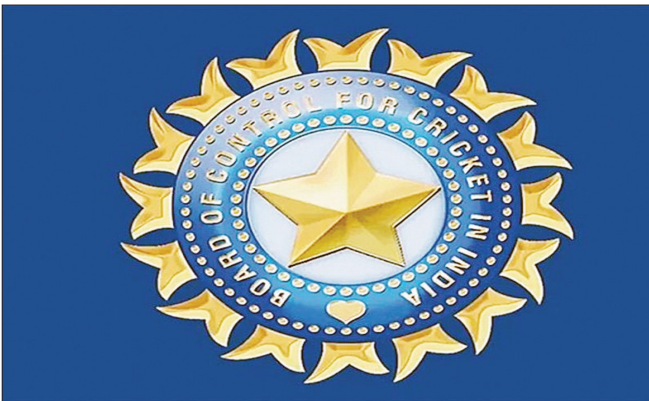


Stuttgart, and deep runs in Brisbane and Miami.

Clay-court specialist Anastasia Potapova continued her rapid rise, jumping from No. 38 to No. 28 after another productive month on the surface. Potapova has now won 14 matches on clay this season and returns to the Top 30 for the first time since March 2024.

Former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko also climbed back into the Top 30 after a quarter-final appearance in Rome, moving up seven places to No. 29.

Elsewhere, Zeynep Sonmez set a national record by rising to a career-high No. 59, becoming the highest-ranked Turkish woman in WTA history. Meanwhile, Czech youngster Nikola Bartunkova enjoyed the biggest jump inside the Top 100, soaring 29 spots to No. 65 after reaching the fourth round in Rome as a lucky loser.



that the BCCI was substantially financed by the government.

The CIC recorded that the BCCI generates revenue independently through media rights, sponsorships, broadcasting agreements and ticket sales, and is financially self-sustaining.

"The BCCI functions independently of any governmental finance. Its revenues are generated wholly from its own activities," the order said.

Also referring to the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in Board of Control for Cricket in

India v. Cricket Association of Bihar, where the apex court had introduced governance reforms in the cricket body through the Lodha Committee recommendations, the CIC noted that while the Supreme Court recognised that BCCI performs functions having a public character, it had not declared the body a "public authority" under the RTI Act.

Dismissing the appeal, the CIC held that the burden to establish that the BCCI was owned, controlled or substantially financed by the government had not been discharged by the appellant.

"In view of the aforementioned factual and legal position, the Commission upholds the submissions advanced by Respondents. Accordingly, the appeal, being devoid of merit, is dismissed," the order said.